手塚治虫 漫画全集

アラバスター

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手塚治虫漫画全集　89

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ALABASTER
アラバスター

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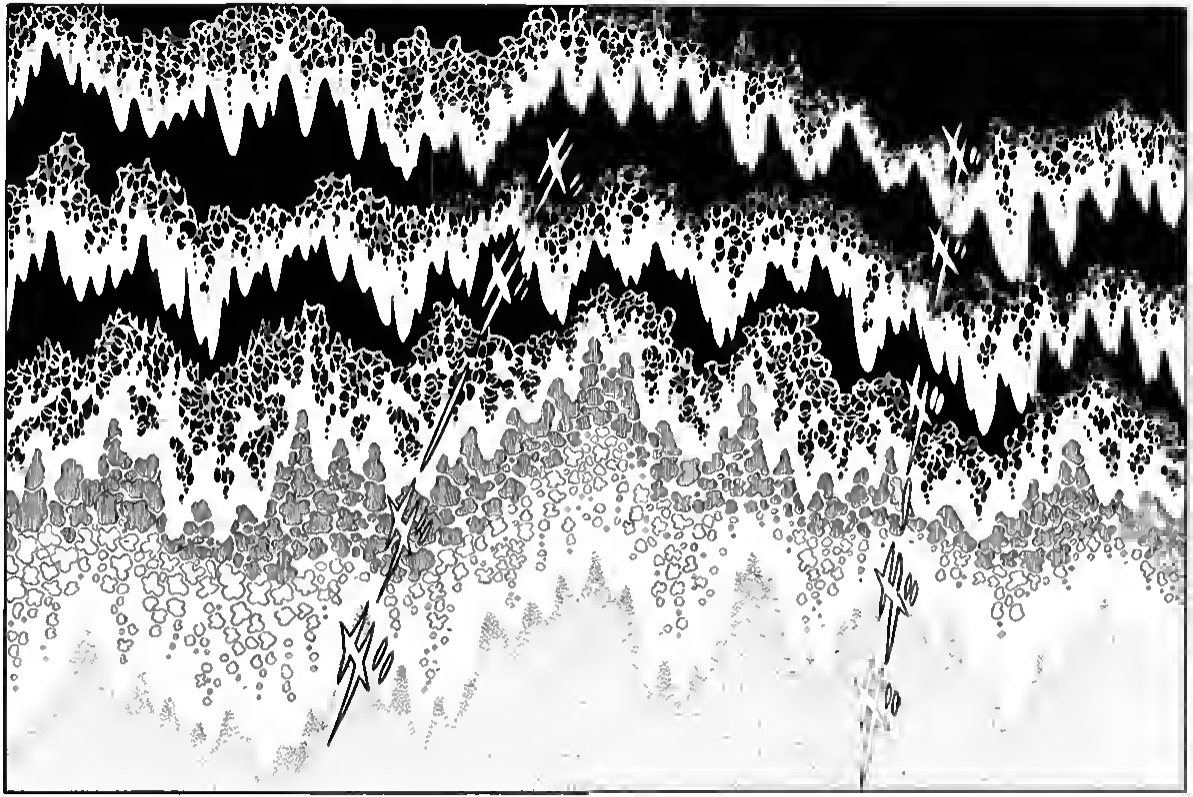
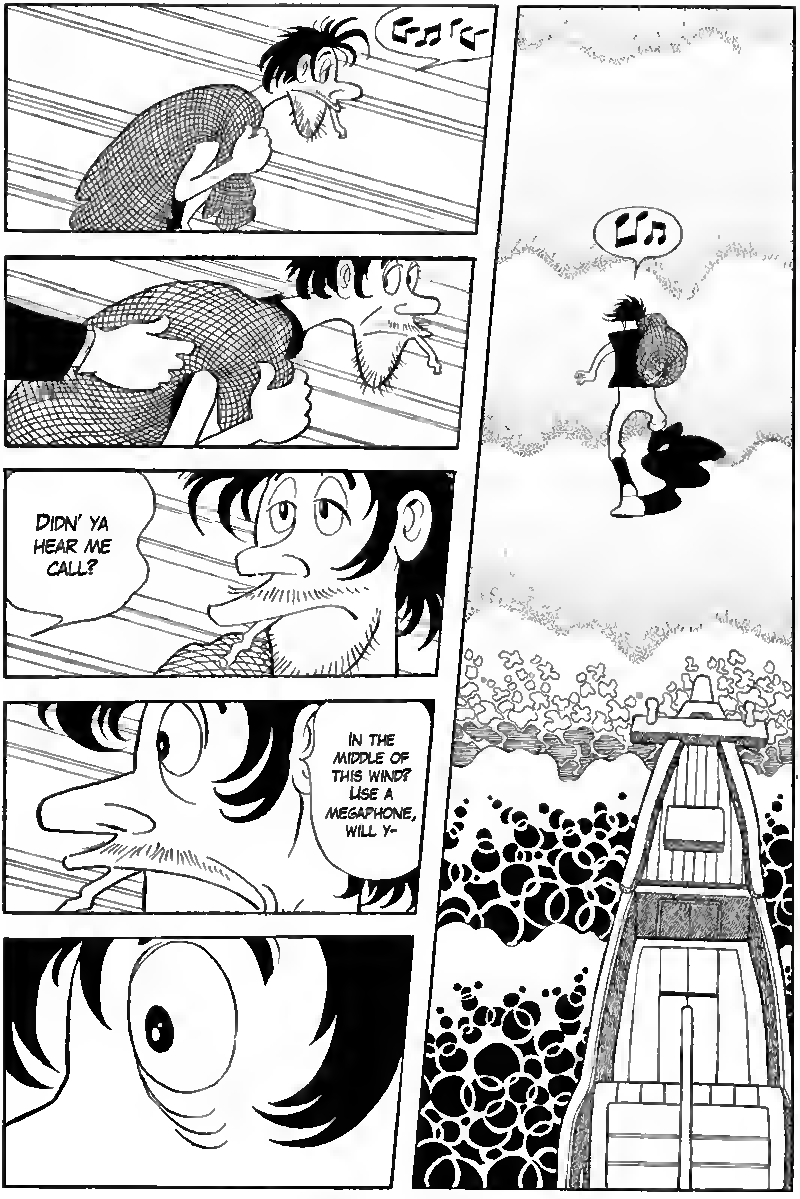
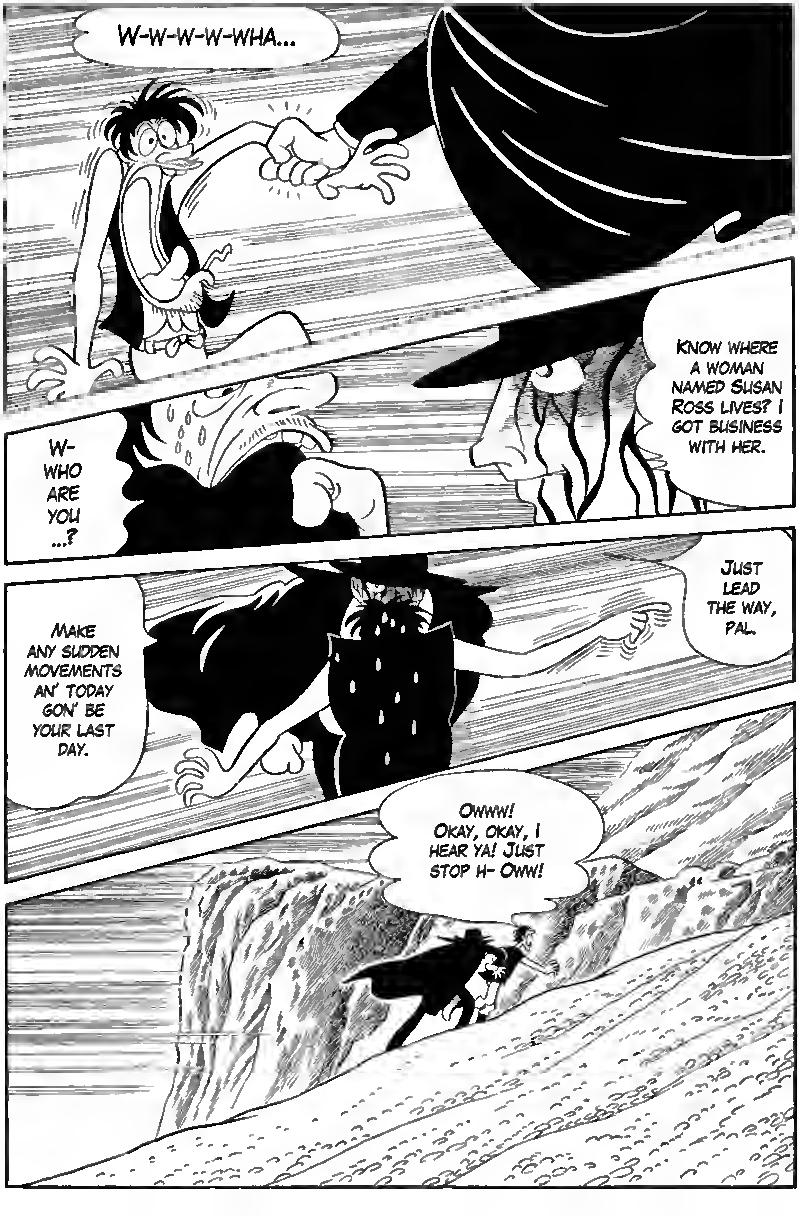
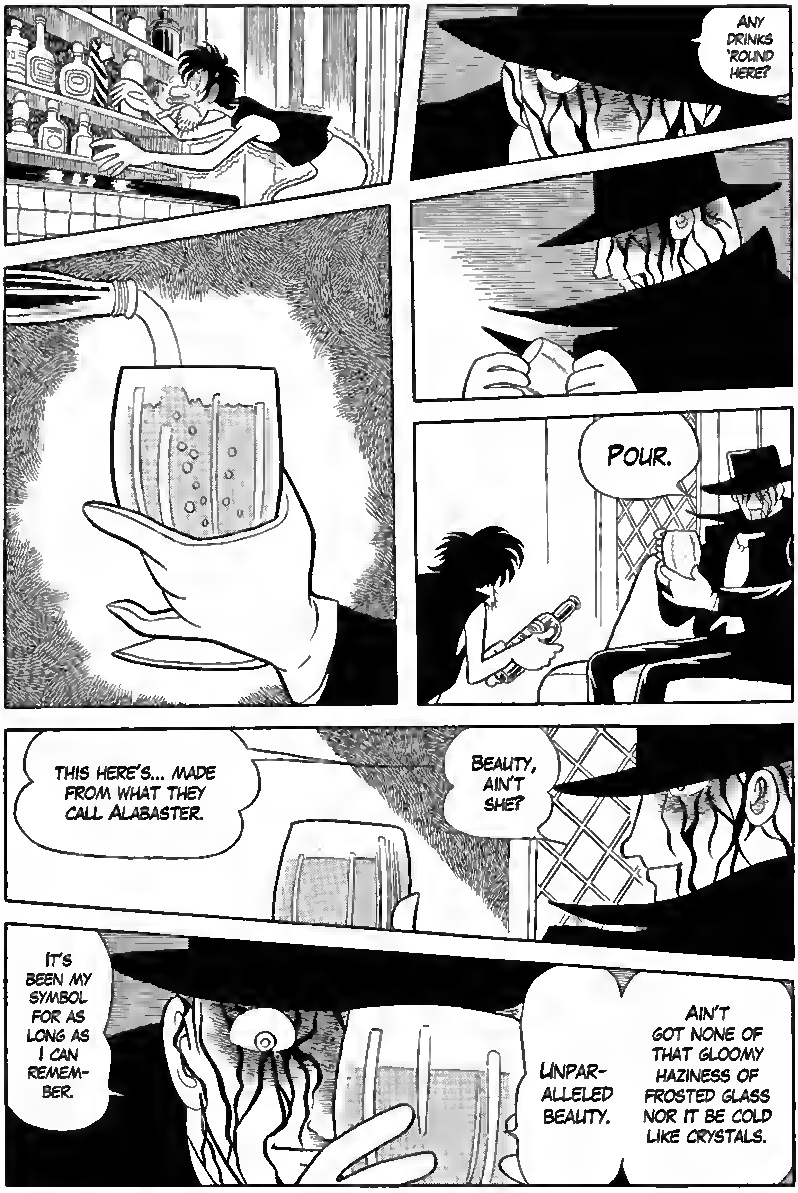
Chapter 1
Curtain Raising

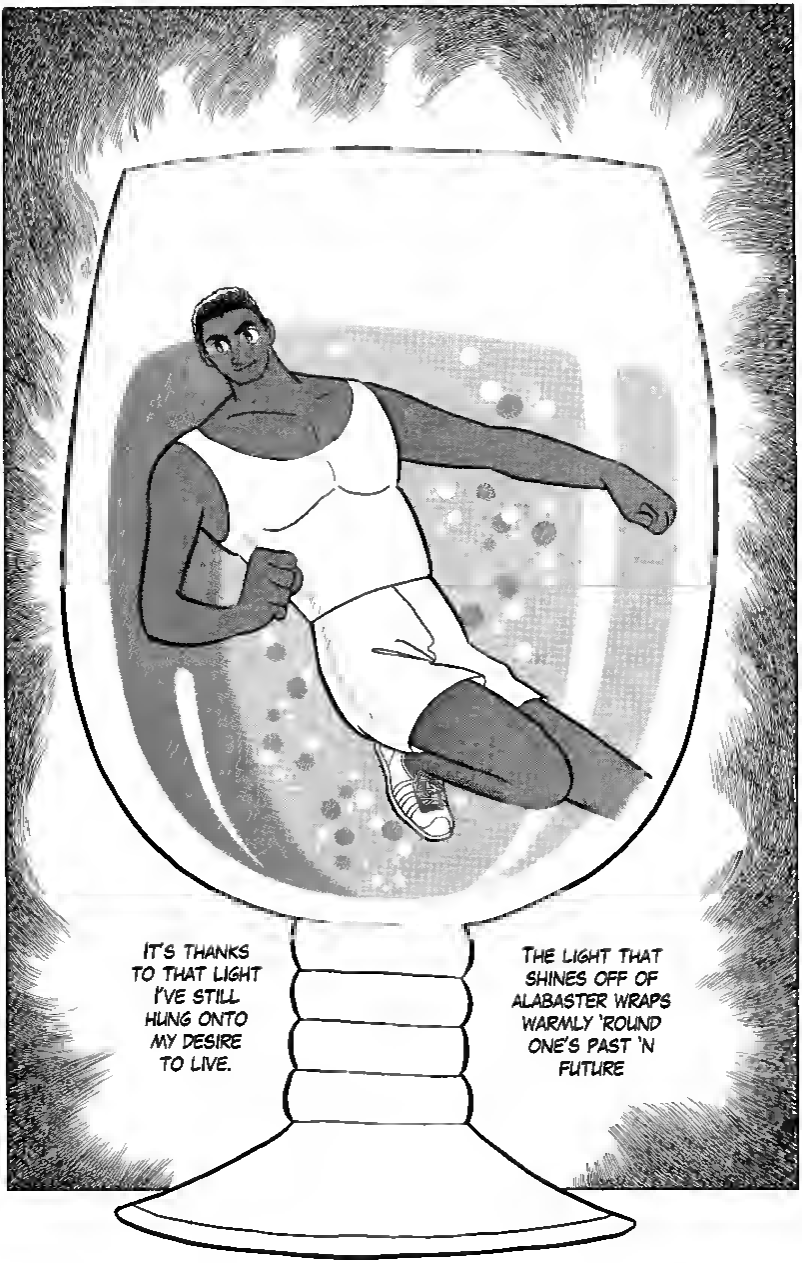


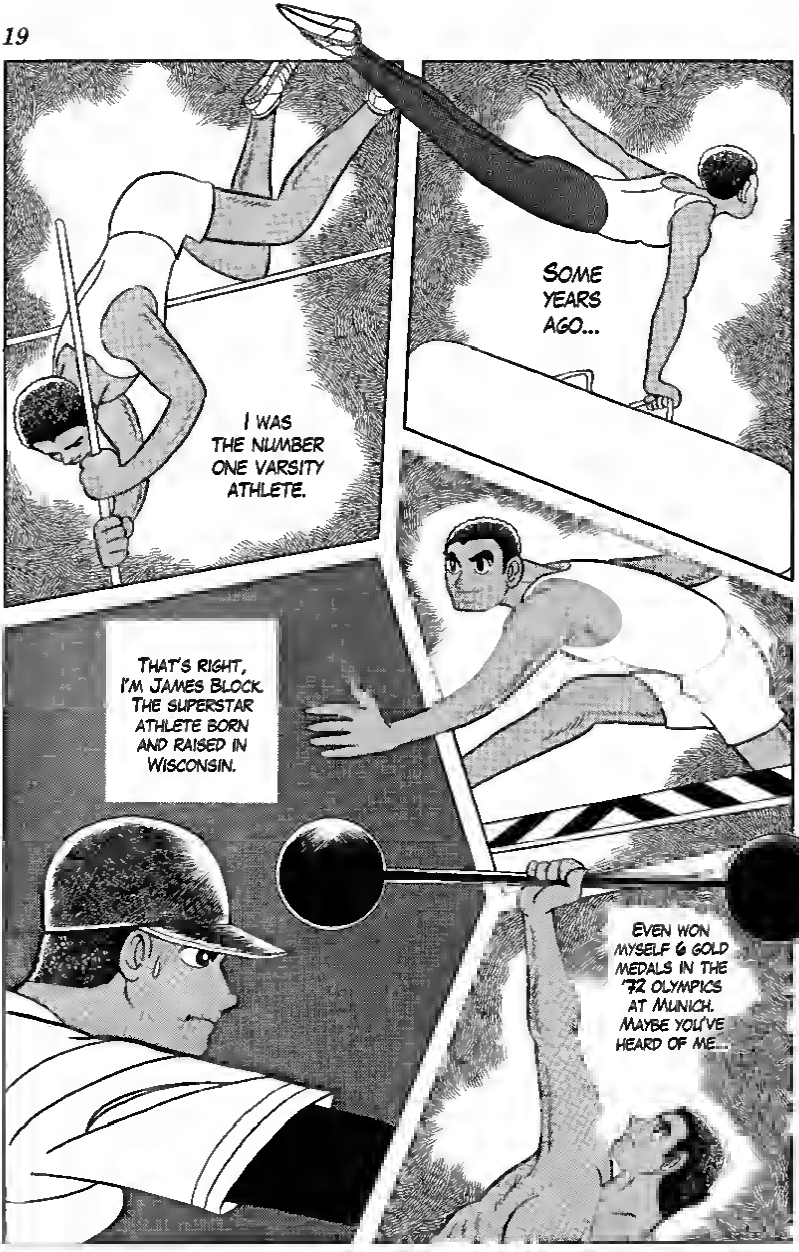

DIDN' YA HEAR ME CALL?
IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS WIND? USE A MEGAPHONE, WILL Y-


W-W-W-W-WHA...
KNOW WHERE A WOMAN NAMED SUSAN ROSS LIVES? I GOT BUSINESS WITH HER.
W- WHO ARE YOU ...?
JUST LEAD THE WAY, PAL.
MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS AN' TODAY GON' BE YOUR LAST DAY.
OWWW! OKAY, OKAY, I HEAR YA! JUST STOP H- OWW!

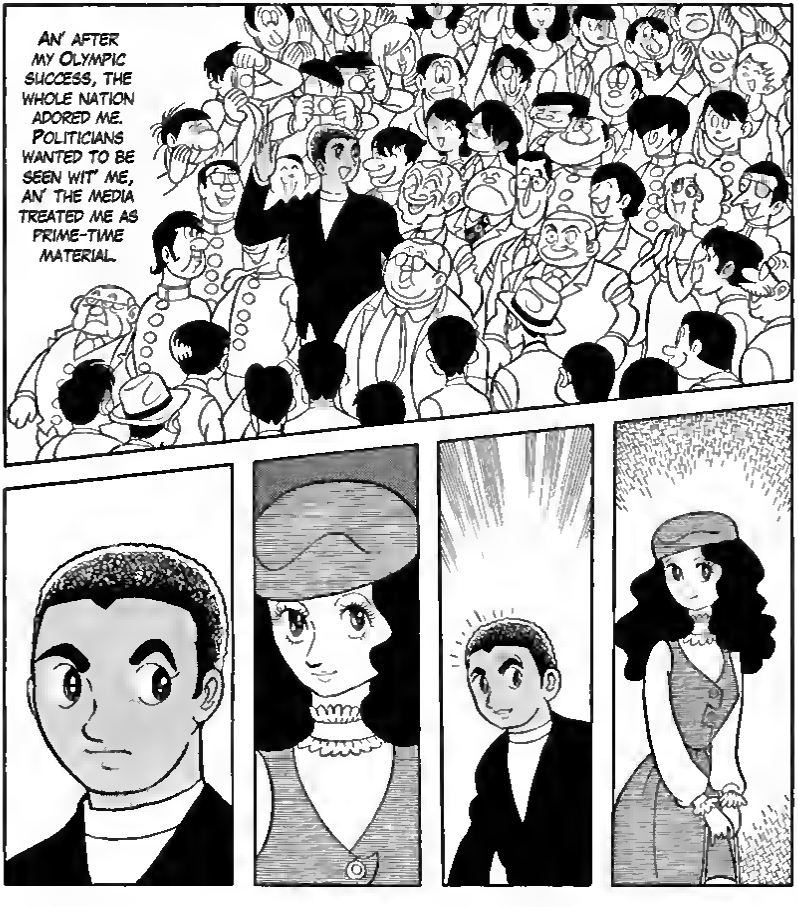
NOT HERE, HUH...
I TAKE IT SHE'LL BE BACK SOON SINCE HER DOOR AIN'T LOCKED...
TOUGH SHIT, PAL, BUT I'MA HAVE YOU STAY 'TIL SHE'S BACK.
SHIT...

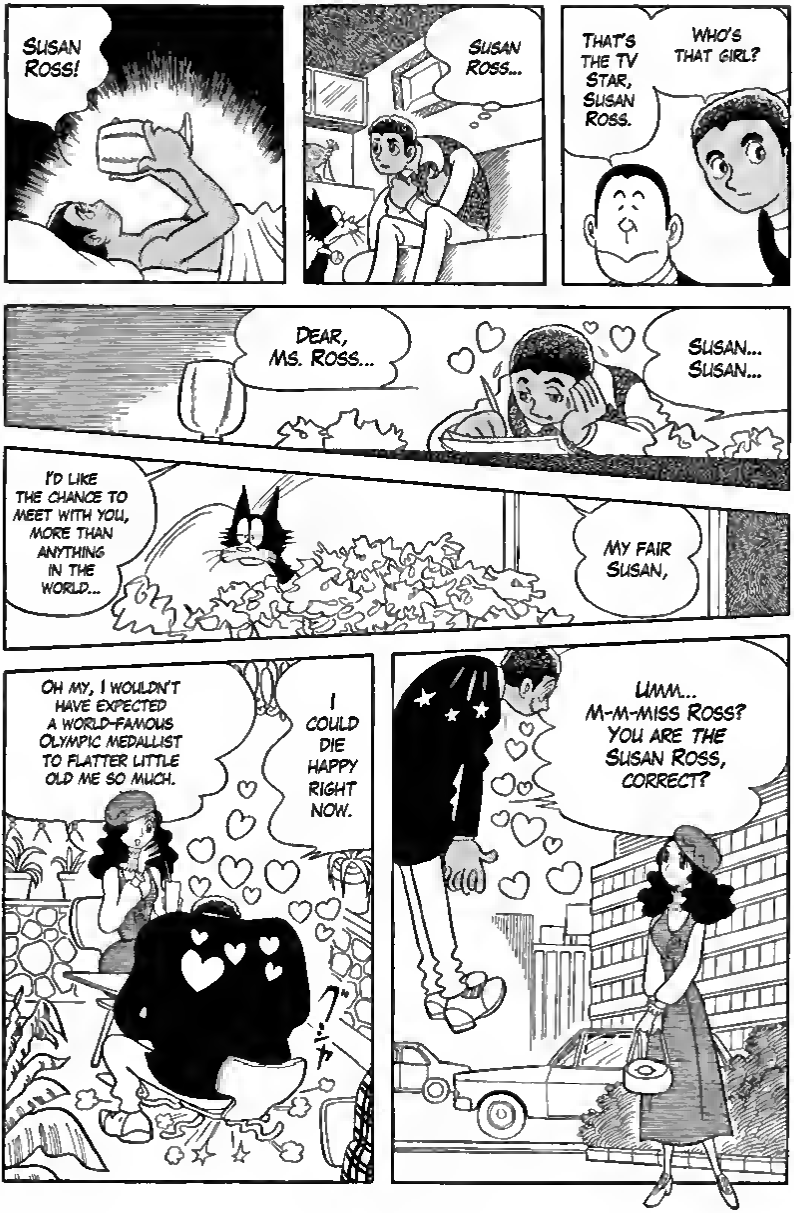

ANY DRINKS 'ROUND HERE?
POUR.
THIS HERE'S... MADE FROM WHAT THEY CALL ALABASTER.
BEAUTY, AIN'T SHE?
IT'S BEEN MY SYMBOL FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
UNPARALLELED BEAUTY.
AIN'T GOT NONE OF THAT GLOOMY HAZINESS OF FROSTED GLASS NOR IT BE COLD LIKE CRYSTALS.


IT'S THANKS TO THAT LIGHT I'VE STILL HUNG ONTO MY DESIRE TO LIVE.
THE LIGHT THAT SHINES OFF OF ALABASTER WRAPS WARMLY 'ROUND ONE'S PAST 'N FUTURE


I WAS THE NUMBER ONE VARSITY ATHLETE.
SOME YEARS AGO...
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M JAMES BLOCK. THE SUPERSTAR ATHLETE BORN AND RAISED IN WISCONSIN.
EVEN WON MYSELF 6 GOLD MEDALS IN THE '72 OLYMPICS AT MUNICH. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME...

EVEN BACK IN MY COLLEGE DAYS, I WAS KNOWN FOR HOLDIN' 5 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES.


AN' AFTER MY OLYMPIC SUCCESS, THE WHOLE NATION ADORED ME. POLITICIANS WANTED TO BE SEEN WIT' ME, AN' THE MEDIA TREATED ME AS PRIME-TIME MATERIAL.


SUSAN ROSS!
SUSAN ROSS...
THAT'S THE TV STAR, SUSAN ROSS.
WHO'S THAT GIRL?
DEAR, MS. ROSS...
SUSAN... SUSAN...
I'D LIKE THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH YOU, MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD...
MY FAIR SUSAN,
OH MY, I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED A WORLD-FAMOUS OLYMPIC MEDALLIST TO FLATTER LITTLE OLD ME SO MUCH.
I COULD DIE HAPPY RIGHT NOW.
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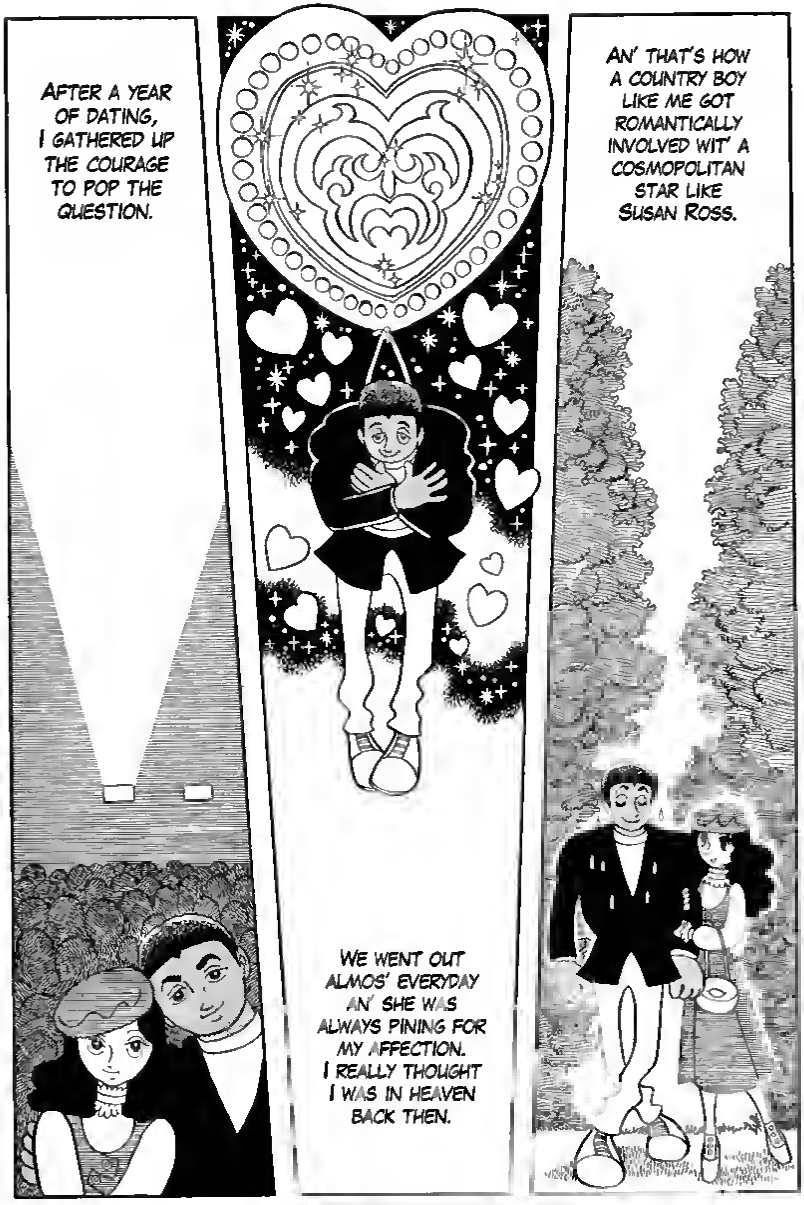
UMM... M-M-MISS ROSS? YOU ARE THE SUSAN ROSS, CORRECT?

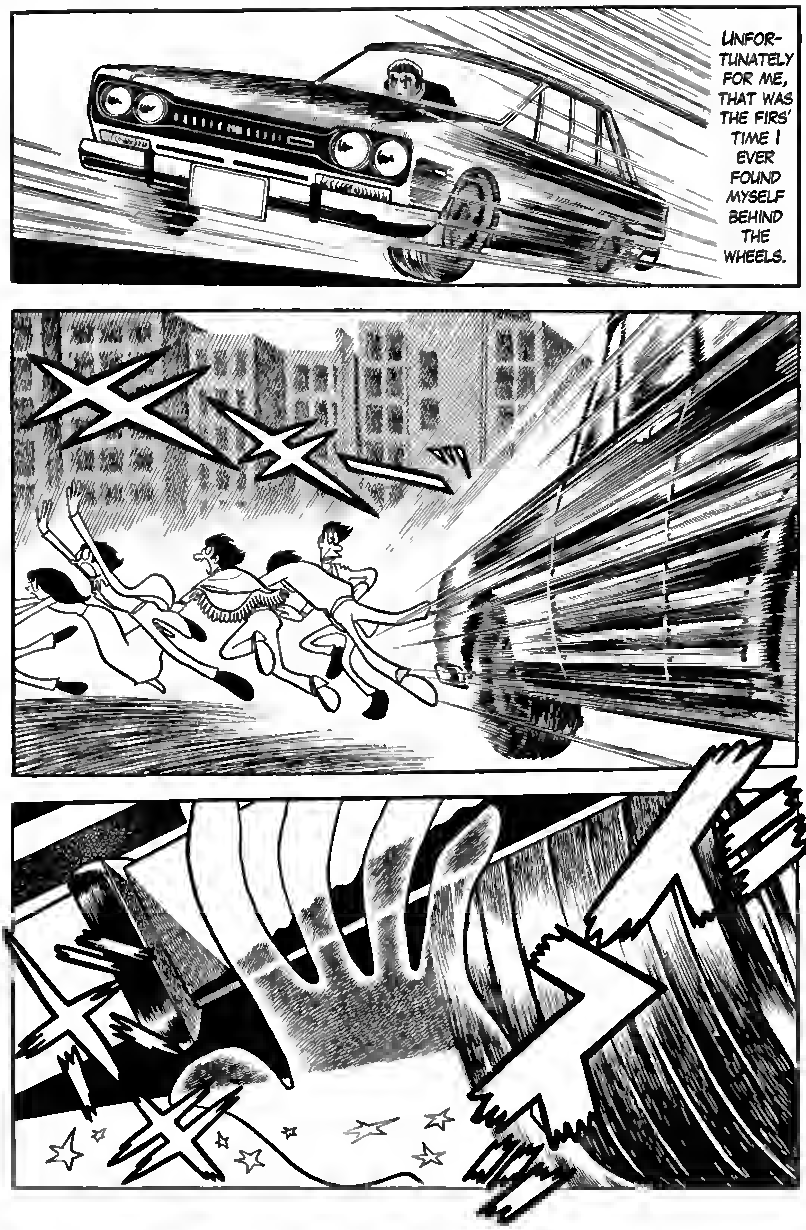

After a year of dating, I gathered up the courage to pop the question.
We went out almos' everyday an' she was always pining for my affection. I really thought I was in heaven back then.
An' that's how a country boy like me got romantically involved wit' a cosmopolitan star like Susan Ross.

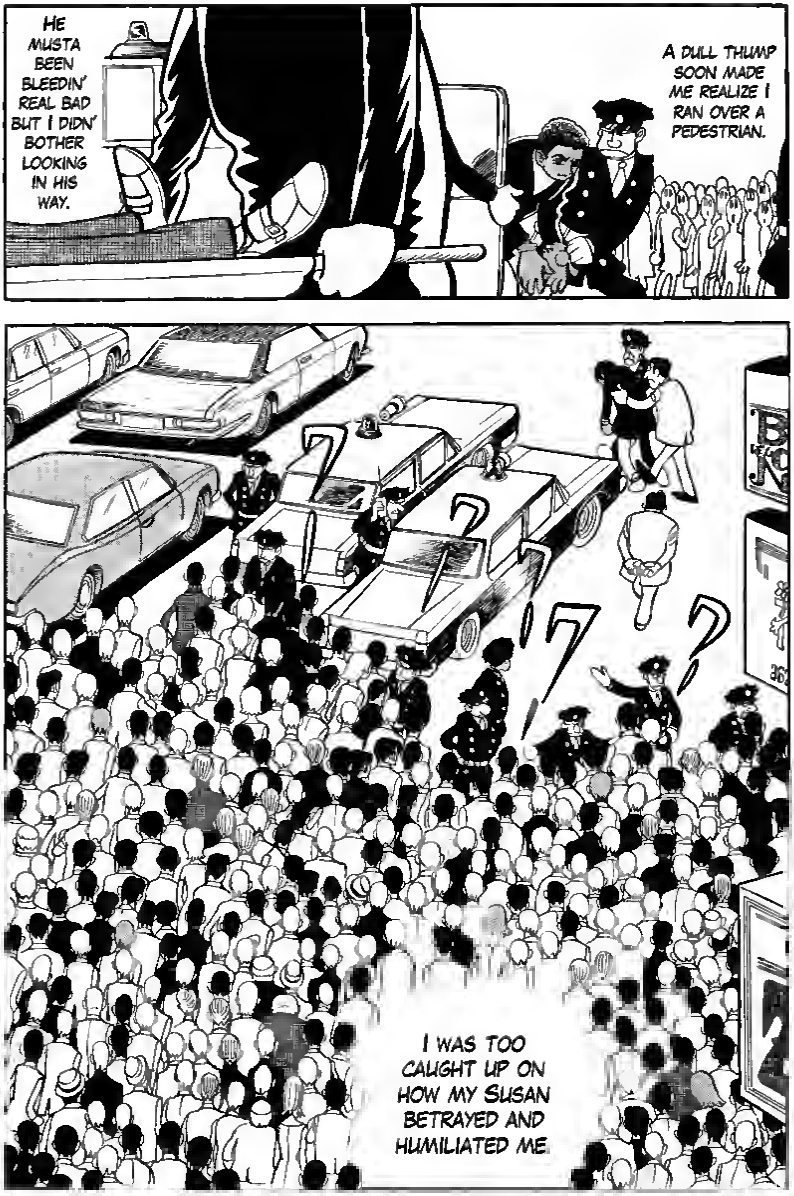
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
SUSIE, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD SO I JUST HAVE TO ASK...
WHAT? BUT WE'RE IN LOVE, AIN'T WE?
MARRY YOU? I'M NOT SURE IF WE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE.
WHAT!? Y-YOU MEAN YOU WERE NEVER SERIOUS ABOUT US?
OH, PLEASE. I ONLY DATED YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE AN OLYMPIC STAR.
WHAT!?
SERIOUS? HAHAHA, LOOK AT YOURSELF, HONEY. DID YOU REALLY THINK SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD MARRY SOMEONE LIKE ME?

WELL, I SUPPOSE THIS IS IT FOR US... FAREWELL...
YOU THINK TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELF.
YOU... LYIN' BITCH!
HEEELP!

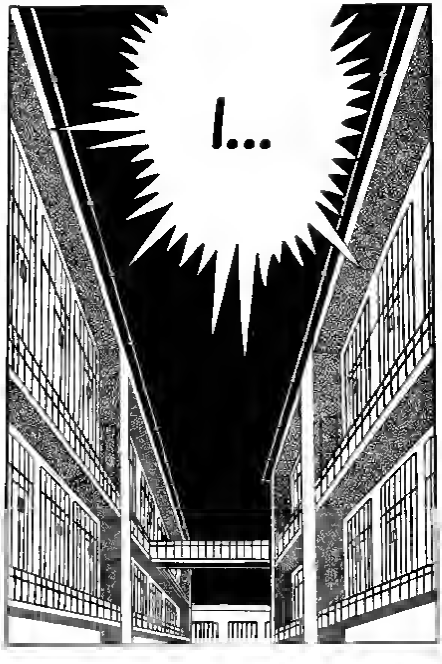
PLEASE!
SOME-BODY HELP!
HOW... HOW DARE YOU MAKE A FOOL OUTTA ME!
DON' GET IN MY WAY!
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING TO MS. ROSS, YOU DAMN NIGGER!
YOU BETTER STOP TRYIN' TO HARASS THAT LADY!

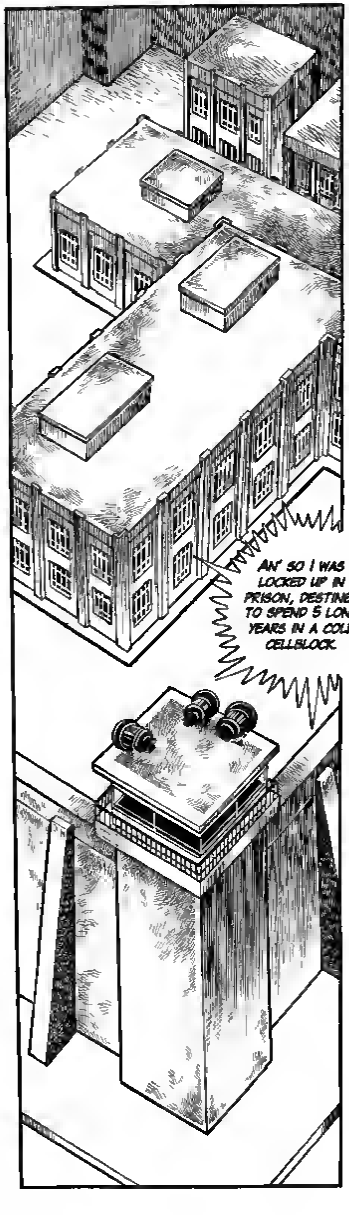
I SAID GET LOST!
BEAT IT!
SON OF A!
LET ME GO!
I'M BORROWIN' THIS CAR!

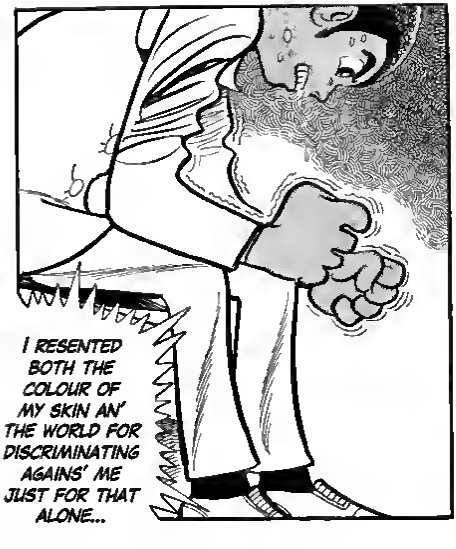

UNFOR-
TUNATELY
FOR ME,
THAT WAS
THE FIRS'
TIME I
EVER
FOUND
MYSELF
BEHIND
THE
WHEELS.

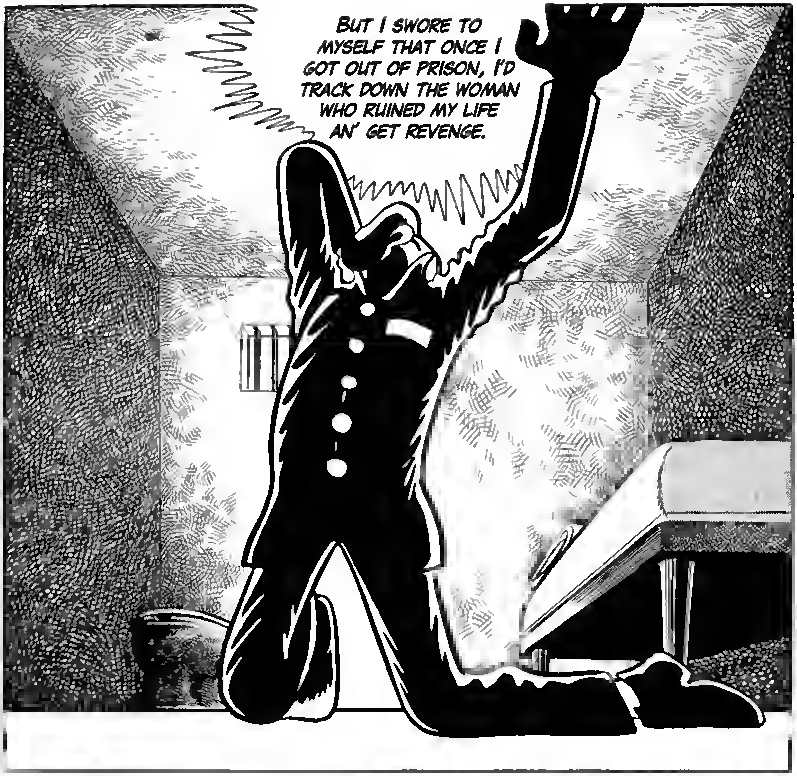

HE MUSTA BEEN BLEEDIN' REAL BAD BUT I DIDN' BOTHER LOOKING IN HIS WAY.
A DULL THUMP SOON MADE ME REALIZE I RAN OVER A PEDESTRIAN.
I WAS TOO CAUGHT UP ON HOW MY SUSAN BETRAYED AND HUMILIATED ME.

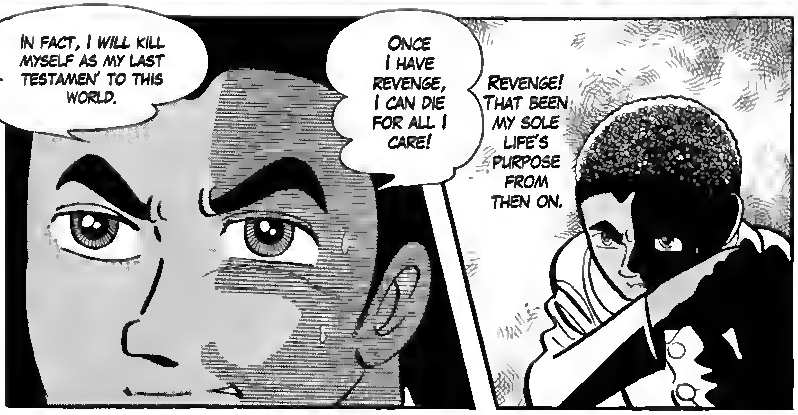
JAMES BLOCK, FOR THE CRIME OF DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE AND VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER, YOU ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON WITH NO STAY OF EXECUTION. IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL...
JUDGE! PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
BUT HE THREATENED ME BY FORCE TO GO OUT WITH HIM EVERYDAY ...!
I SAID NO, TIME AND TIME AGAIN,
I ONLY WROTE A LETTER ASKIN' IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO OUT WIT' ME!
THAT'S A LIE!
WHY WOULD I AGREE TO GO OUT WITH SOME RANDOM PERSON I WASN'T EVEN INTERESTED IN?
THAT'S ABSURD!
YOU GOTTA BELIEVE WHAT I'M SAYIN'! SHE'S THE ONE WHO LYIN'!


I...


AN' SO I WAS LOCKED UP IN PRISON, DESTINED TO SPEND 5 LONG YEARS IN A COLD CELLBLOCK.

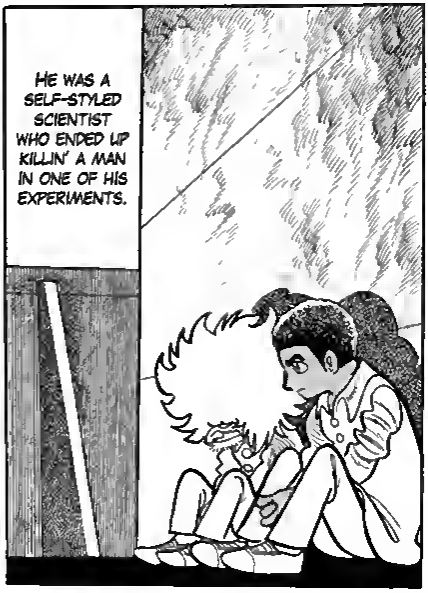

I RESENTED BOTH THE COLOUR OF MY SKIN AN' THE WORLD FOR DISCRIMINATING AGAINS' ME JUST FOR THAT ALONE...


But I swore to myself that once I got out of prison, I'd track down the woman who ruined my life an' get revenge.


In fact, I will kill myself as my last testamen' to this world.
Once I have revenge, I can die for all I care!
Revenge! That been my sole life's purpose from then on.

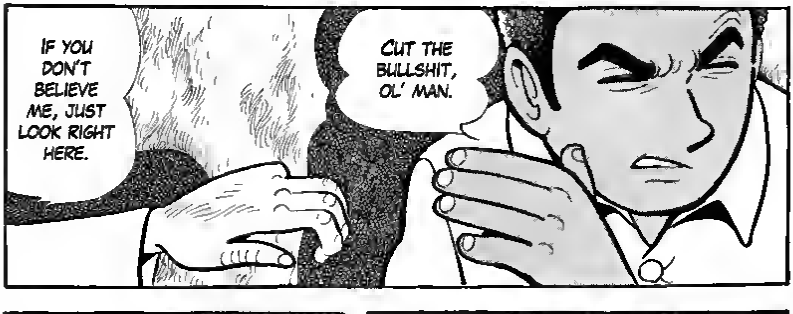
DURING MY STAY IN PRISON, I HAPPENED TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH AN ECCENTRIC OL' MAN.

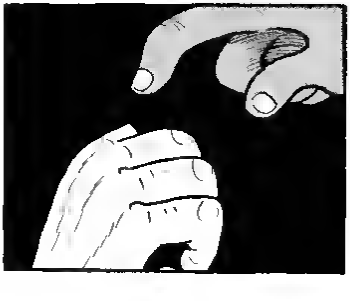
OH, SO YOU'D LIKE TO GET RID OF YOUR BLACK SKIN, DO YOU NOW? WELL, LET ME TELL YOU JUST THE WAY TO GET RID OF IT, ALRIGHT.
WHAT, GON' TELL ME TO OFF MYSELF OR SOMETHIN'?

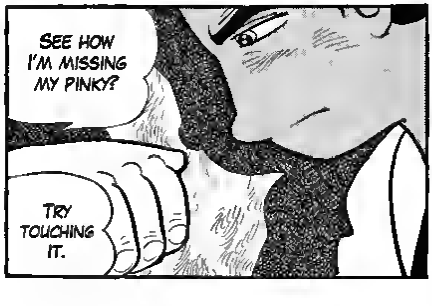

HE WAS A SELF-STYLED SCIENTIST WHO ENDED UP KILLIN' A MAN IN ONE OF HIS EXPERIMENTS.

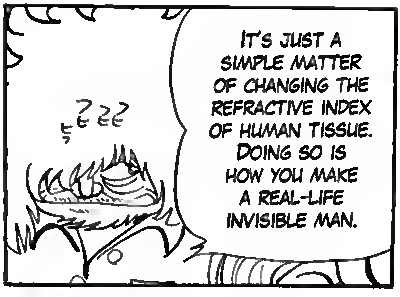
NO, NOT AT ALL. IN FACT, IF YOU WANTED TO, YOU COULD ERASE YOUR ENTIRE BODY WITH THE WAY I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU...
EVER HEARD OF A STORY CALLED "THE INVISIBLE MAN?"

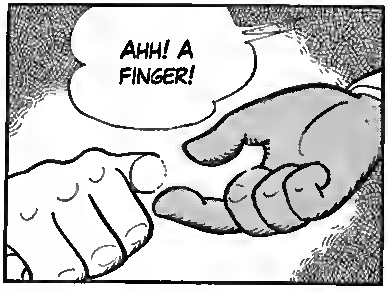
WELL, ALL THAT'S JUST A MADE-UP STORY BUT TRUTH HAS A WAY OF BEING STRANGER THAN FICTION.
USING THAT STORY AS AN INSPIRATION, I'VE SPENT OVER 40 YEARS RESEARCHING INVISIBILITY.
YEAH, I SAW IT ON TV ONCE.

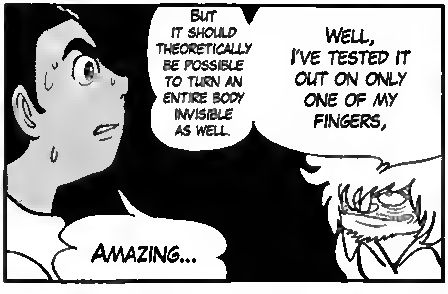

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, JUST LOOK RIGHT HERE.
CUT THE BULLSHIT, OL' MAN.

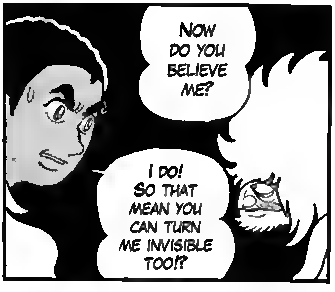



SEE HOW I'M MISSING MY PINKY?
TRY TOUCHING IT.

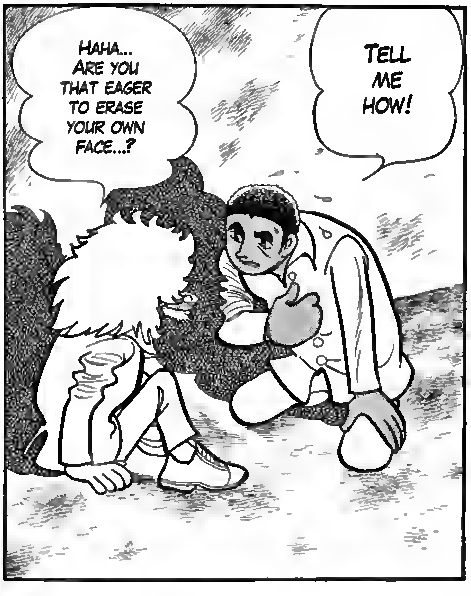

IT'S JUST A SIMPLE MATTER OF CHANGING THE REFRACTIVE INDEX OF HUMAN TISSUE. DOING SO IS HOW YOU MAKE A REAL-LIFE INVISIBLE MAN.


AHH! A FINGER!


BUT IT SHOULD THEORETICALLY BE POSSIBLE TO TURN AN ENTIRE BODY INVISIBLE AS WELL.
WELL, I'VE TESTED IT OUT ON ONLY ONE OF MY FINGERS,
AMAZING...


NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
I DO! SO THAT MEAN YOU CAN TURN ME INVISIBLE TOO!?

'COURSE! JUST LOOKING AT THIS FACE O' MINE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SICK.

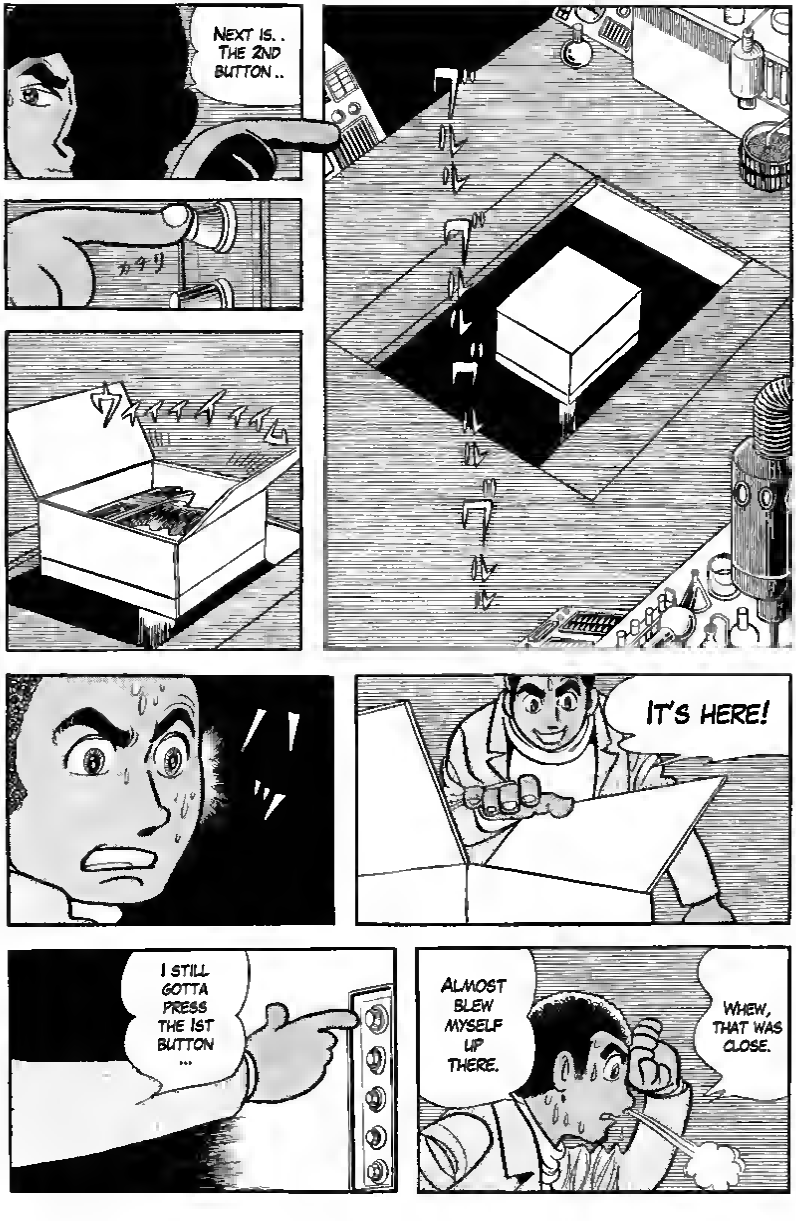

HAHA... ARE YOU THAT EAGER TO ERASE YOUR OWN FACE...?
TELL ME HOW!

FINE, LISTEN UP. THE INVISIBILITY DEVICE IS HIDDEN IN MY HOUSE.

RIGHT, I'LL BE CAREFUL...
LASTLY, PUSH THE 1ST BUTTON TO ACTIVATE THE DEVICE. NOT FOLLOWING THESE STEPS PRECISELY WILL CAUSE IT TO EXPLODE SO DON'T YOU FORGET IT.
THERE ARE 5 BUTTONS ON THE EAST WALL OF MY LAB. PUSH THE 3RD ONE TO OPEN UP A HOLE IN THE FLOOR FROM WHICH THE BOX CONTAINING THE DEVICE WILL RISE ABOVE. THEN PUSH THE 2ND BUTTON TO OPEN THE LID.
YOU'LL GIVE IT TO ME?
THAT'S WHY I'LL HAND MY DEVICE OVER TO YOU IF YOU'D LIKE...
I'M OLD ENOUGH AS IT IS AND I'VE GOT MY DOUBTS WHETHER I'LL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF HERE.
THAT DON'T BOTHER ME.
YES, BUT LET ME WARN YOU THAT IT'S A VERY DANGEROUS DEVICE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY GUARANTEES ABOUT YOUR SAFETY. IT MIGHT NOT EVEN END UP TURNING YOUR ENTIRE BODY INVISIBLE...
HAHA... NO NEED FOR A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU TO RUSH TO YOUR DEATH NOW...
IF YOUR DEVICE ENDS UP KILLING ME, THEN FINE.
I'M ALREADY SICK OF THIS SAD EXCUSE FOR A LIFE.

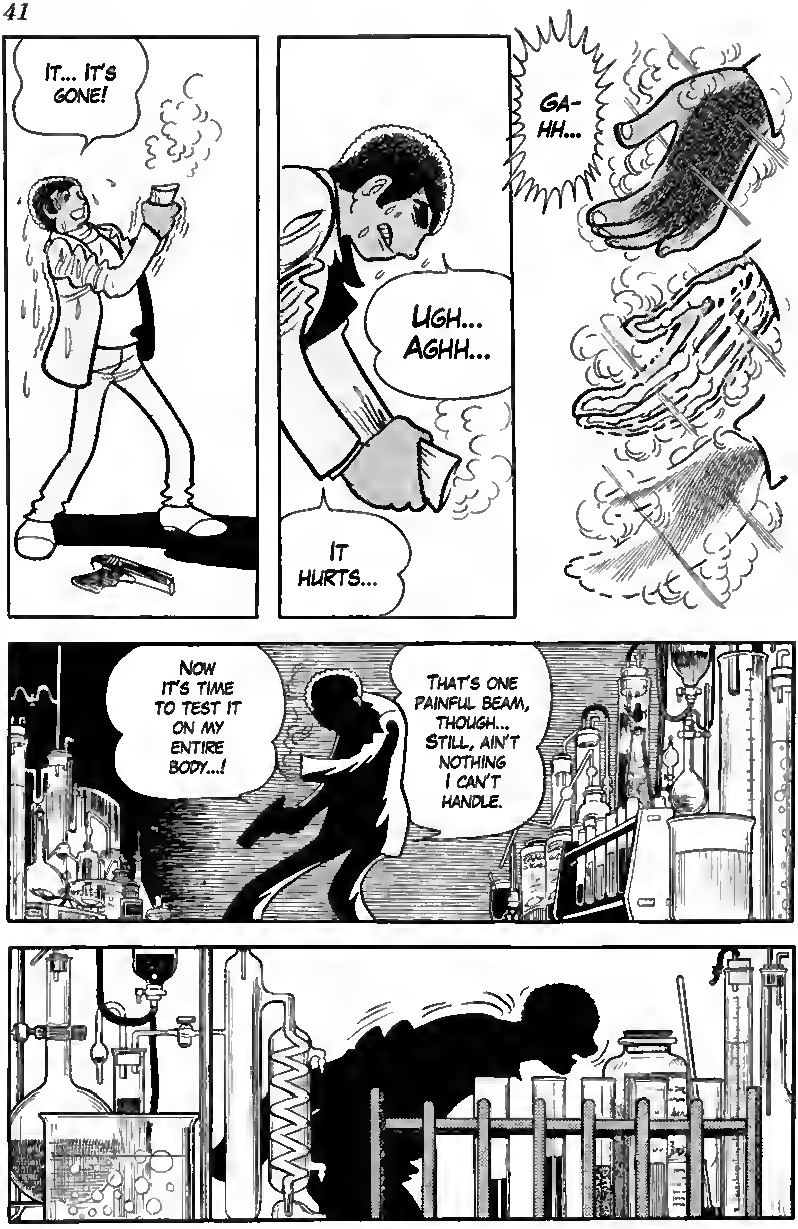
AND THERE IT WAS! JUST AS HE SAID! AN EERIE, DECREPIT HOUSE SURROUNDED BY A GROVE OF TREES. I THEN ENTERED, HOPING THE LAB WAS INSIDE AS HE SAID...
ONCE I HAD SERVED MY PRISON TERM AND MADE MY WAY BACK TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, I IMMEDIATELY STARTED LOOKING FOR THAT OLD MAN'S HOUSE.
CAMERA
SNACK CHOP
AZU

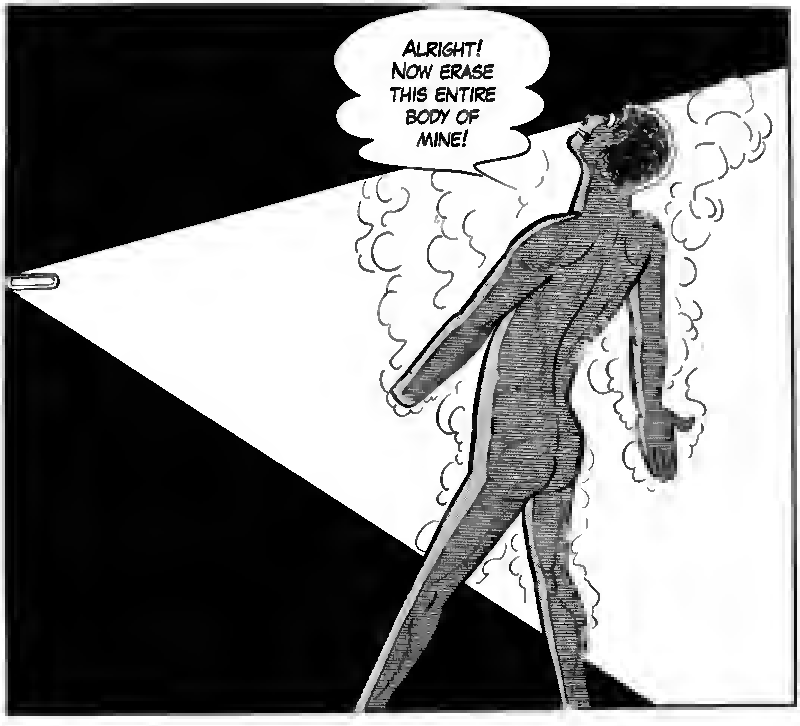
IT'S JUST AS HE SAID...
I GUESS HE REALLY WASN' JUST PULLIN' MY LEG.
3RD BUTTON FROM THE TOP IS... THIS ONE!

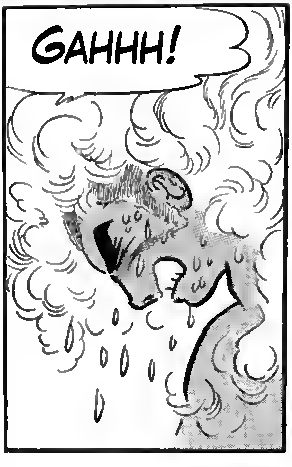

NEXT IS.. THE 2ND BUTTON..
IT'S HERE!
I STILL GOTTA PRESS THE 1ST BUTTON ...
ALMOST BLEW MYSELF UP THERE.
WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE.

LOOKS LIKE SOME WEIRD PISTOL.
HUH, I THOUGHT IT'D BE A LOT BIGGER.
カリッ!
MUMMY

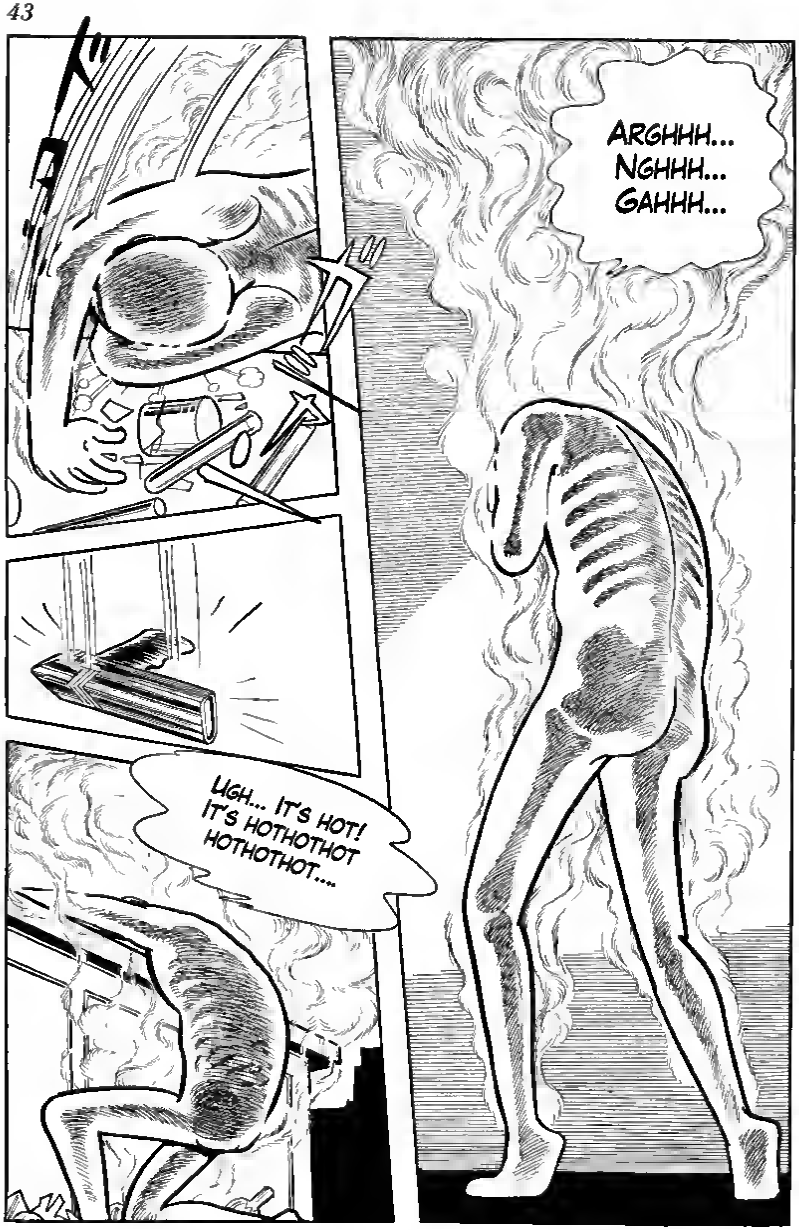
DOESN' SEEM LIKE IT WORK ON OBJECTS THOUGH. MAYBE IT ONLY WORK ON LIVIN' THINGS?
SO THIS STRONG BEAM CAN REALLY TURN SOMETHIN' INVISIBLE?
THAT'S RIGHT!
I STEPPED OUTSIDE TO TEST THE DEVICE ON SOME WEEDS. THE DEVICE SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED TO ERASE THEM AFTER A FAINT BURNING SMELL.
BUT I COULD STILL TELL WITH MY HANDS THAT THE WEEDS WERE STILL THERE.
AHH!
I'LL TEST OUT MY WHOLE HAND.
SINCE THE OL' MAN ALREADY TESTED HIS FINGERS,

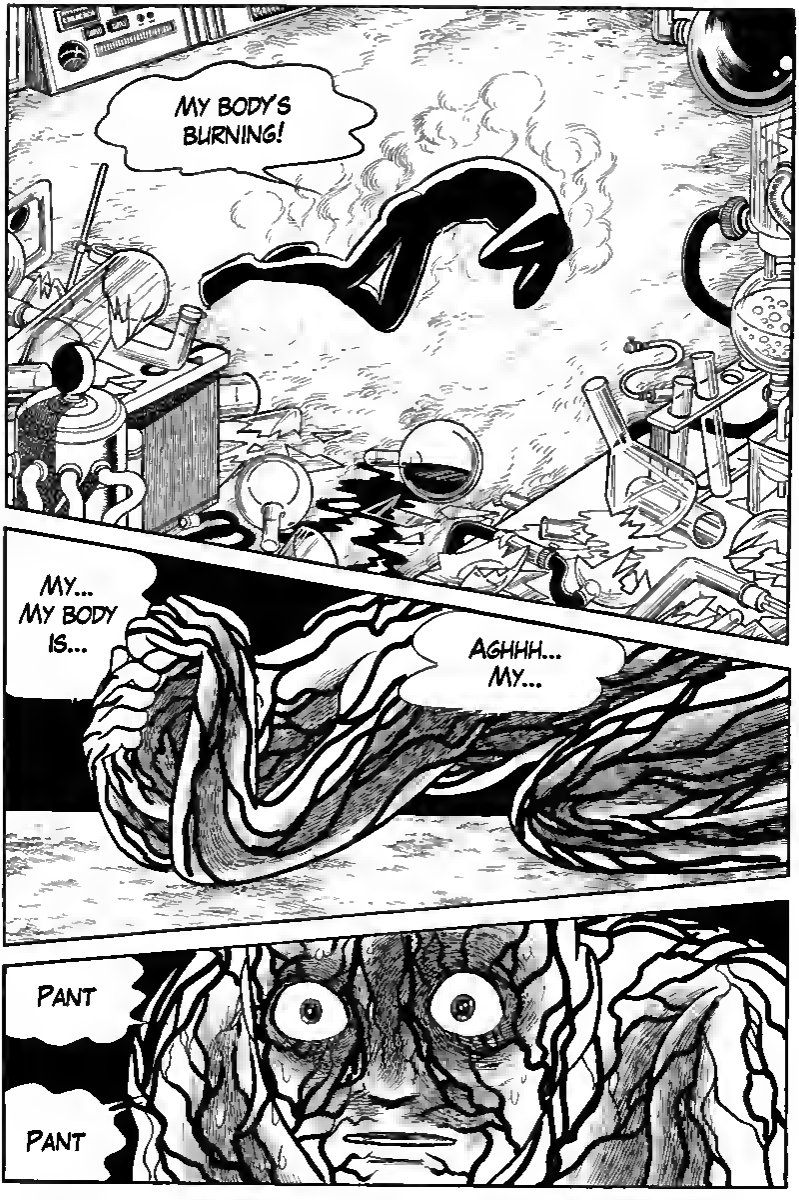

IT... IT'S GONE!
UGH... AGHH...
IT HURTS...
GA- HH...
NOW IT'S TIME TO TEST IT ON MY ENTIRE BODY...!
THAT'S ONE PAINFUL BEAM, THOUGH... STILL, AIN'T NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.

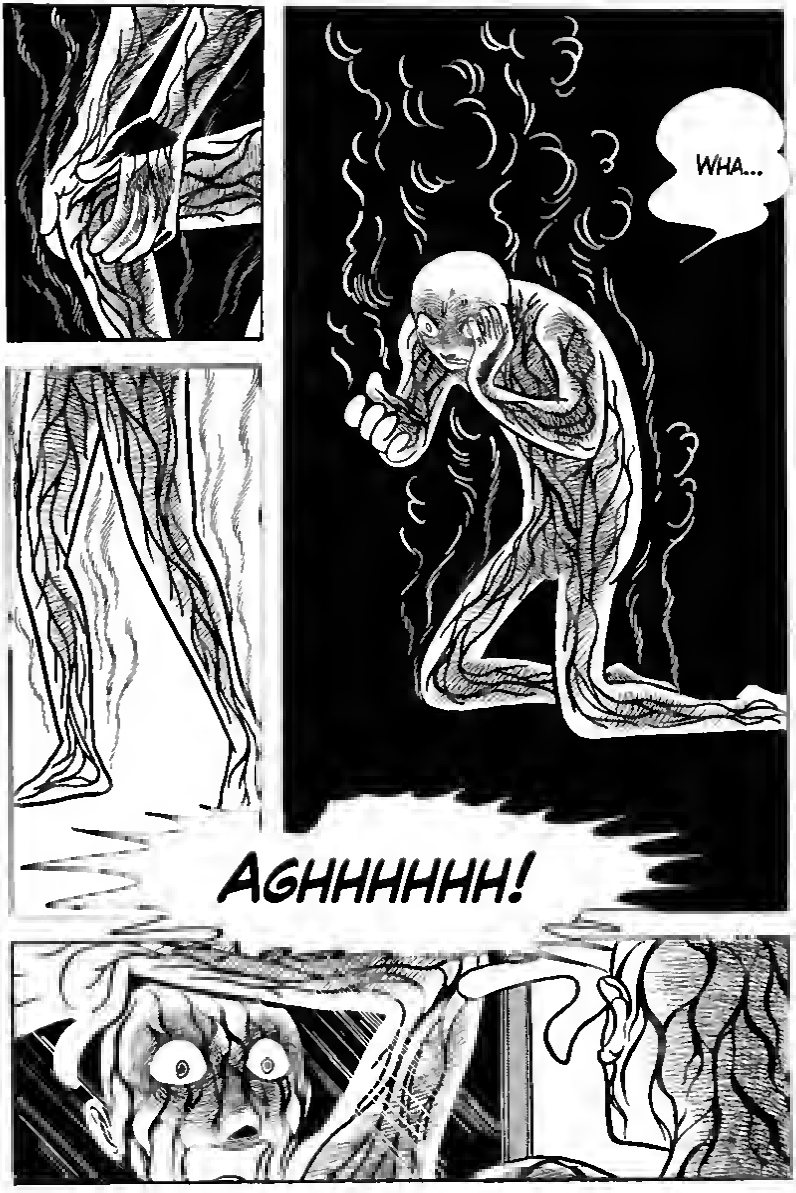




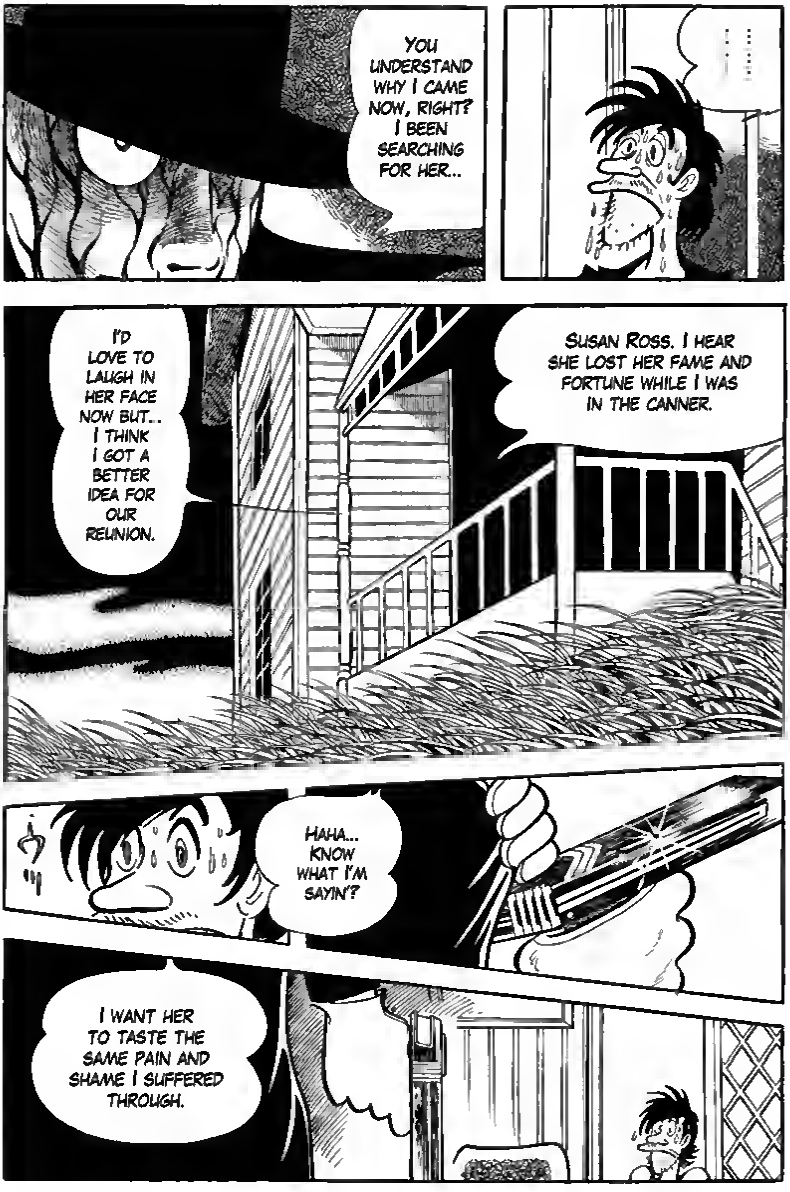
IF THIS KILLS ME, THEN FINE! I AIN'T GOT NO REGRETS!


ARGHHH...
NGHHH...
GAHHH...
UGH... IT'S HOT!
IT'S HOTHOTHOT
HOTHOTHOT....

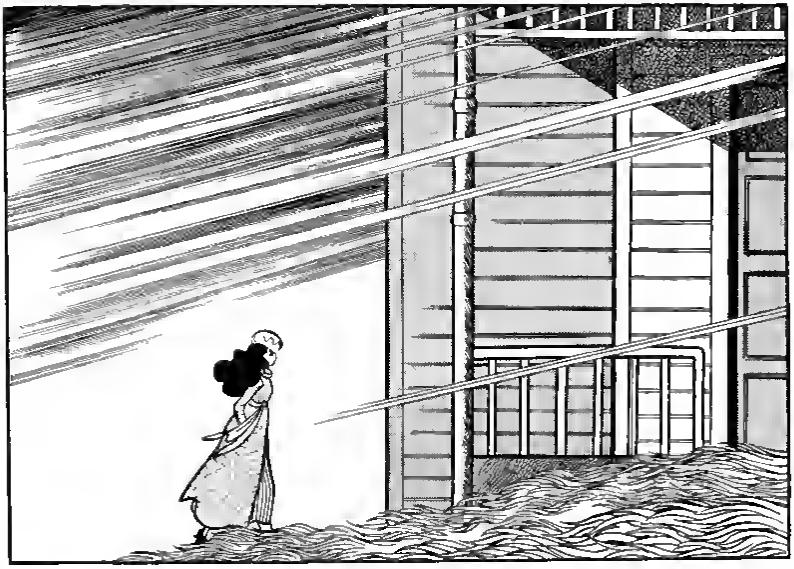

MY BODY'S BURNING!
MY... MY BODY IS...
AGHHH... MY...
PANT
PANT


WHA...
AGHHHHHH!

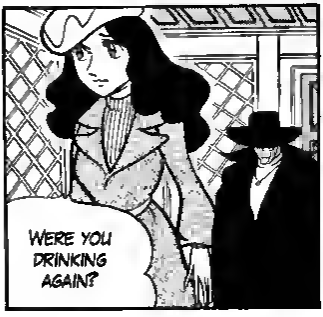
STORY-TIME ENDS HERE.
I BECOME LIKE THIS ALABASTER HERE... MY BLOOD VESSELS, BONES, AND EVEN THE ORGANS ARE NOW VISIBLE...
IN THE END I WAS LEFT WITH JUST MY SKIN TURNED INVISIBLE.
THOUGH I UNINTENTIONALLY STEPPED AWAY FROM THE BEAM DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING PAIN, THAT ENDED UP SAVING MY LIFE.
I REALIZED THAT THE BEAM TURNS LIVING TISSUE INVISIBLE BUT AT THE COST OF ITS LIFE.

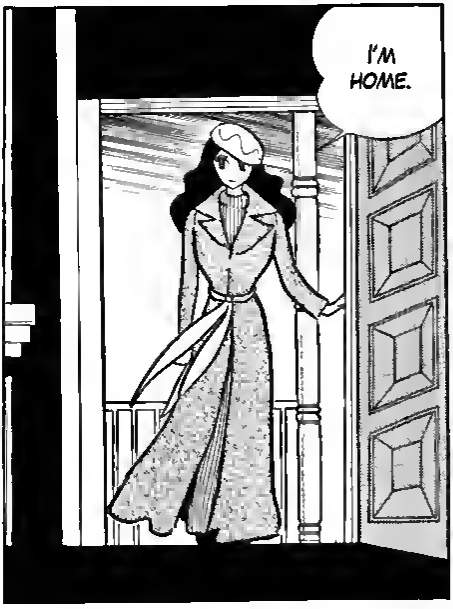

YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I CAME NOW, RIGHT? I BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER..
.....
SUSAN ROSS. I HEAR SHE LOST HER FAME AND FORTUNE WHILE I WAS IN THE CANNER.
I'D LOVE TO LAUGH IN HER FACE NOW BUT.. I THINK I GOT A BETTER IDEA FOR OUR REUNION.
HAHA... KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
I WANT HER TO TASTE THE SAME PAIN AND SHAME I SUFFERED THROUGH.

LET'S SEE HOW THE WOMAN WHO ONCE CALLED ME UGLY REACTS WHEN SHE SEES HER NEW FACE...
IT'LL BE A GREAT GIFT FOR HER, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
'BOUT TIME.

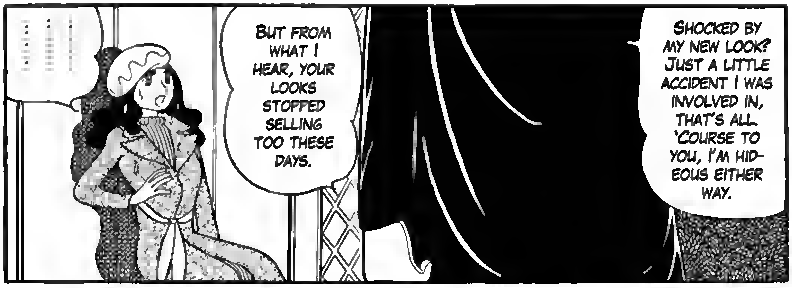


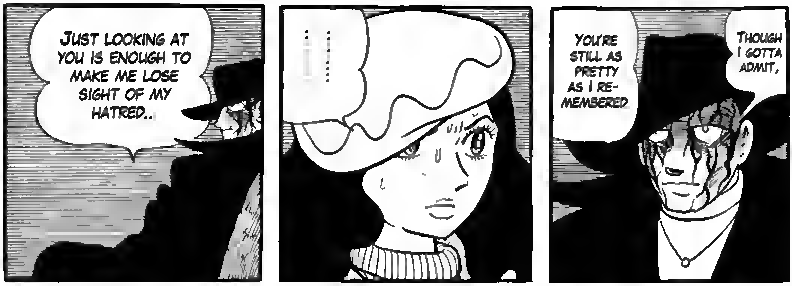
WHAT'S THE MATTER, GONZALES? YOU LOOK DREADFUL...


WERE YOU DRINKING AGAIN?

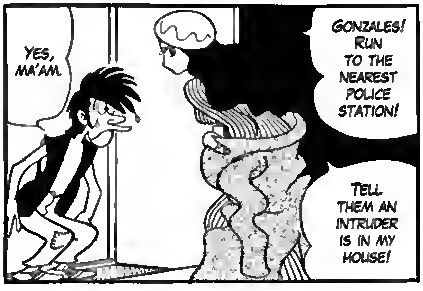

I'M HOME.

NO NEED TO BE SO SHOCKED, SUSAN ROSS.
YOU REMEMBER MY VOICE?
I GUESS I SHOULDN' EXPECT A WHORE LIKE YOU WHO PLAYED AROUND WITH COUNTLESS MEN TO REMEMBER MY VOICE.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, JUST GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!
N-NO, I DON'T...
THE "NIGGER" WHO PROPOSED TO YOU, IF YOU RECALL.
WHA!
JAMES BLOCK.
IT'S JAMES.

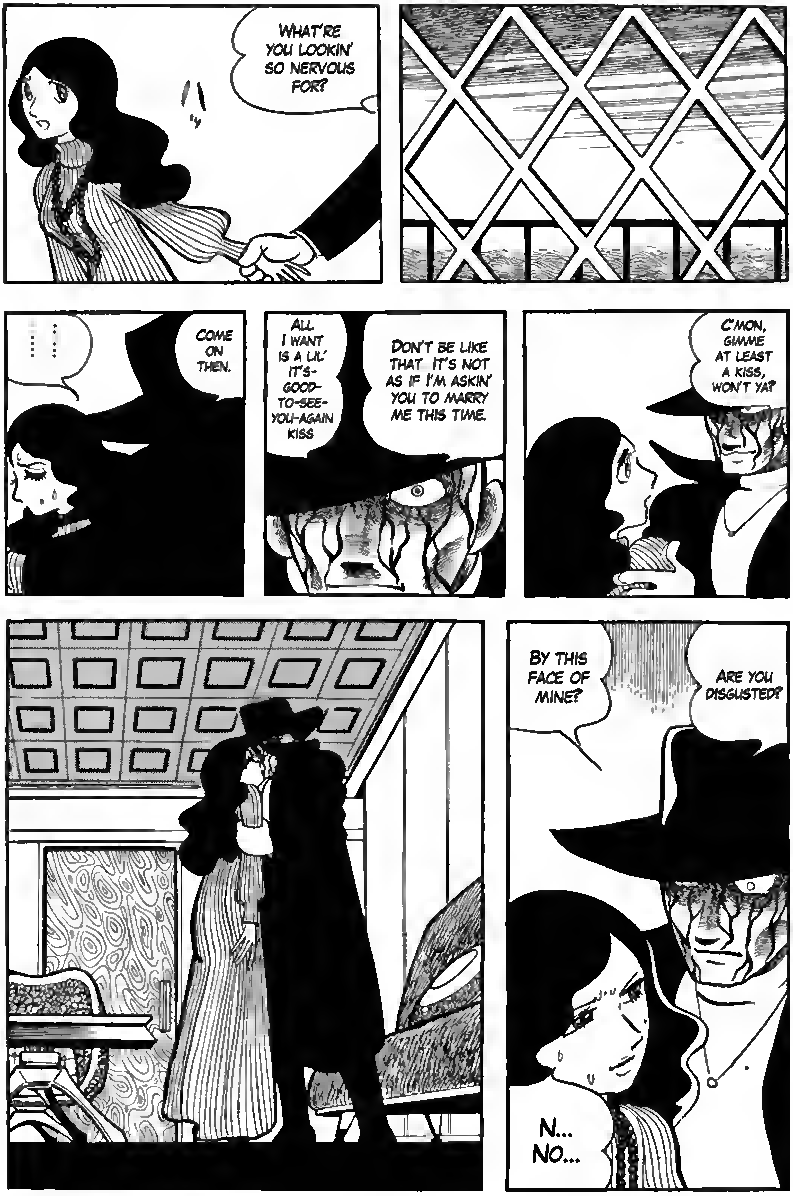

BUT FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOUR LOOKS STOPPED SELLING TOO THESE DAYS.
SHOCKED BY MY NEW LOOK? JUST A LITTLE ACCIDENT I WAS INVOLVED IN, THAT'S ALL. 'COURSE TO YOU, I'M HIDEOUS EITHER WAY.


JUST LOOKING AT YOU IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME LOSE SIGHT OF MY HATRED..
YOU'RE STILL AS PRETTY AS I REMEMBERED
THOUGH I GOTTA ADMIT,

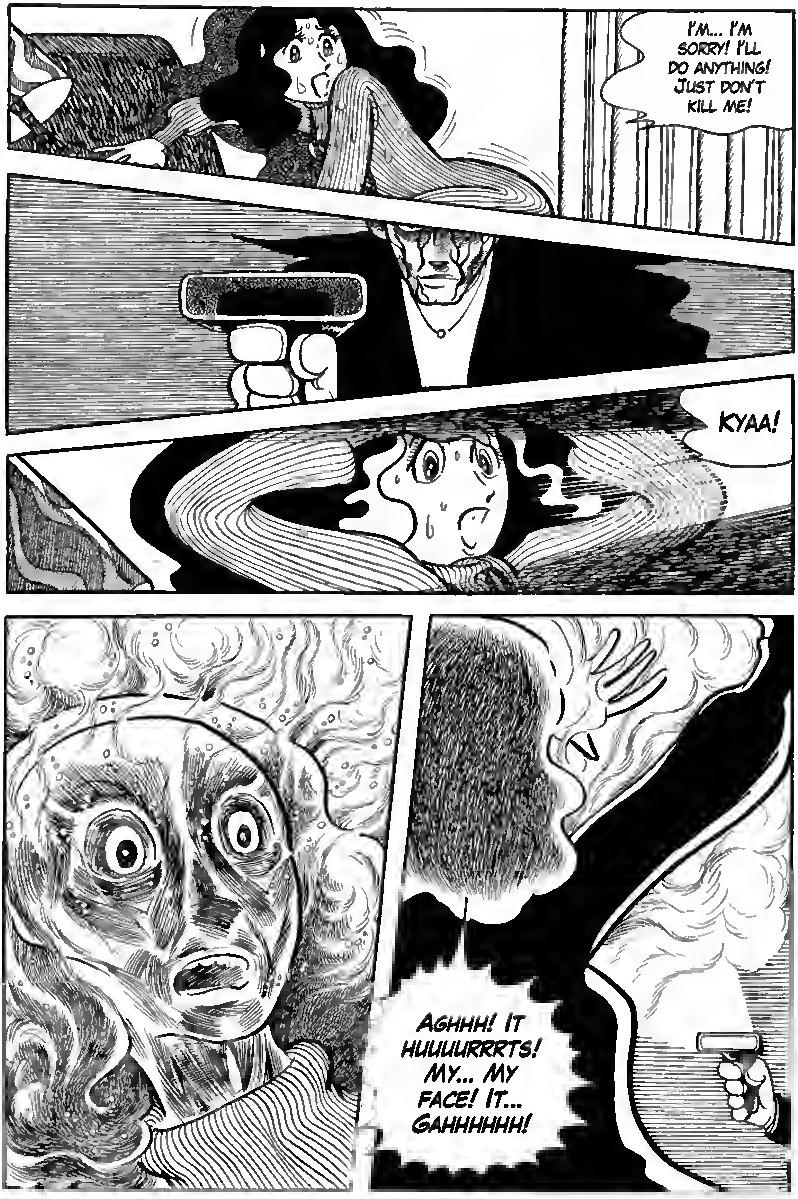
L.. LET ME GO GET CHANGED BEFORE WE CONTINUE OUR TALK. I'LL ALSO BRING OUT SOME TEA.
YES, GO RIGHT AHEAD.
WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE DAY TO TALK ANYWAYS

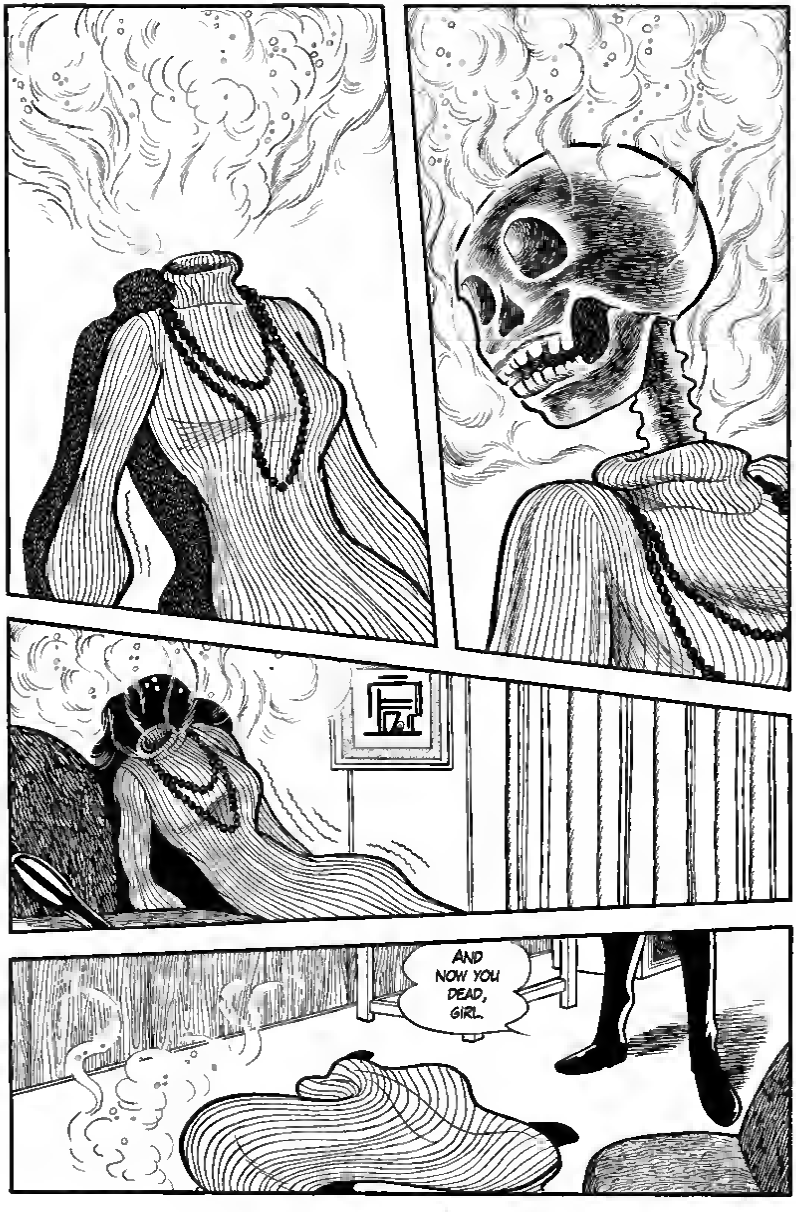

YES, MA'AM.
GONZALES! RUN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION!
TELL THEM AN INTRUDER IS IN MY HOUSE!

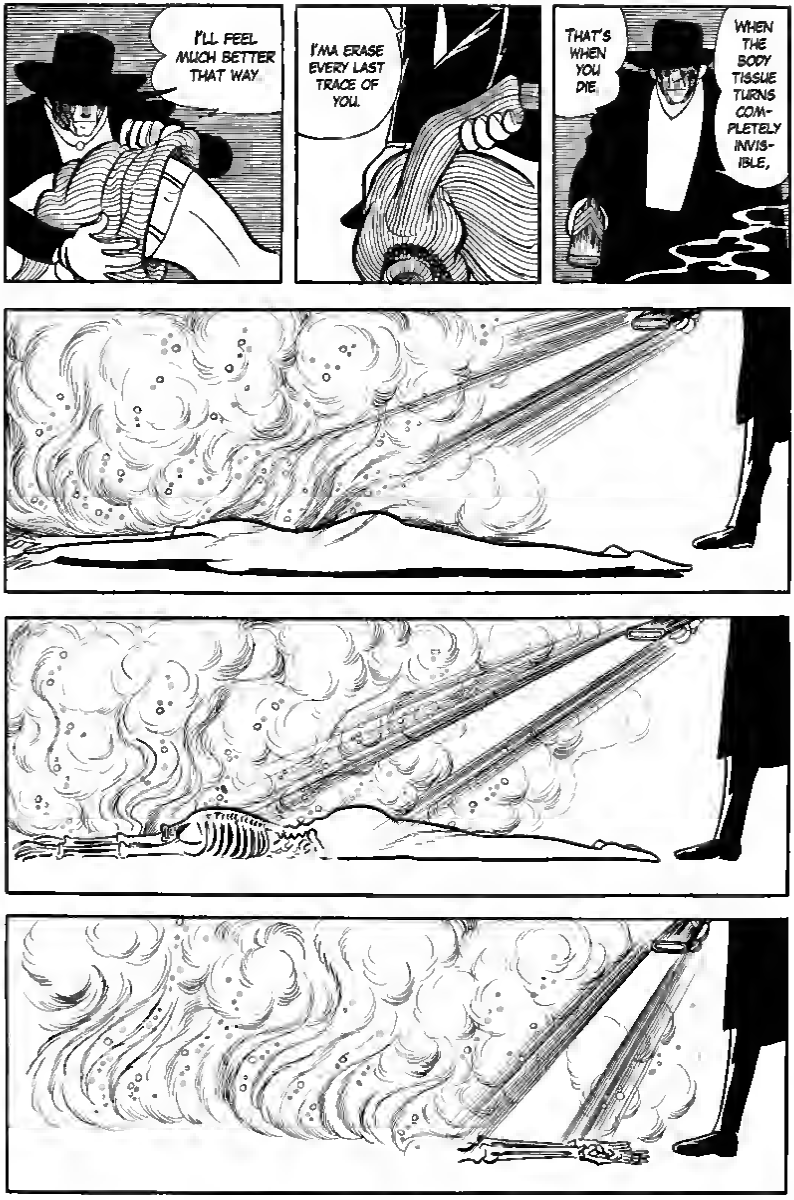
I DID A LOT OF THINKIN' IN THE 5 YEARS I WAS LOCKED UP IN PRISON.
I FELL IN LOVE WIT' YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL WHILE YOU REJECTED ME BECAUSE OF MY LACK OF BEAUTY... BUT JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS BEAUTY...?
FOLKS SAY TRUE BEAUTY BE ON THE INSIDE,
BUT THAT'S JUST SUPERFICIAL BLATHER. JUST AS WIT' YOU, DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SKIN-DEEP APPEARANCES WINS IN THE END.
BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DO YOU THINK SUCH A THING EXISTS?
WHAT I WANNA DO IS TO SEEK OUT TRUE BEAUTY.

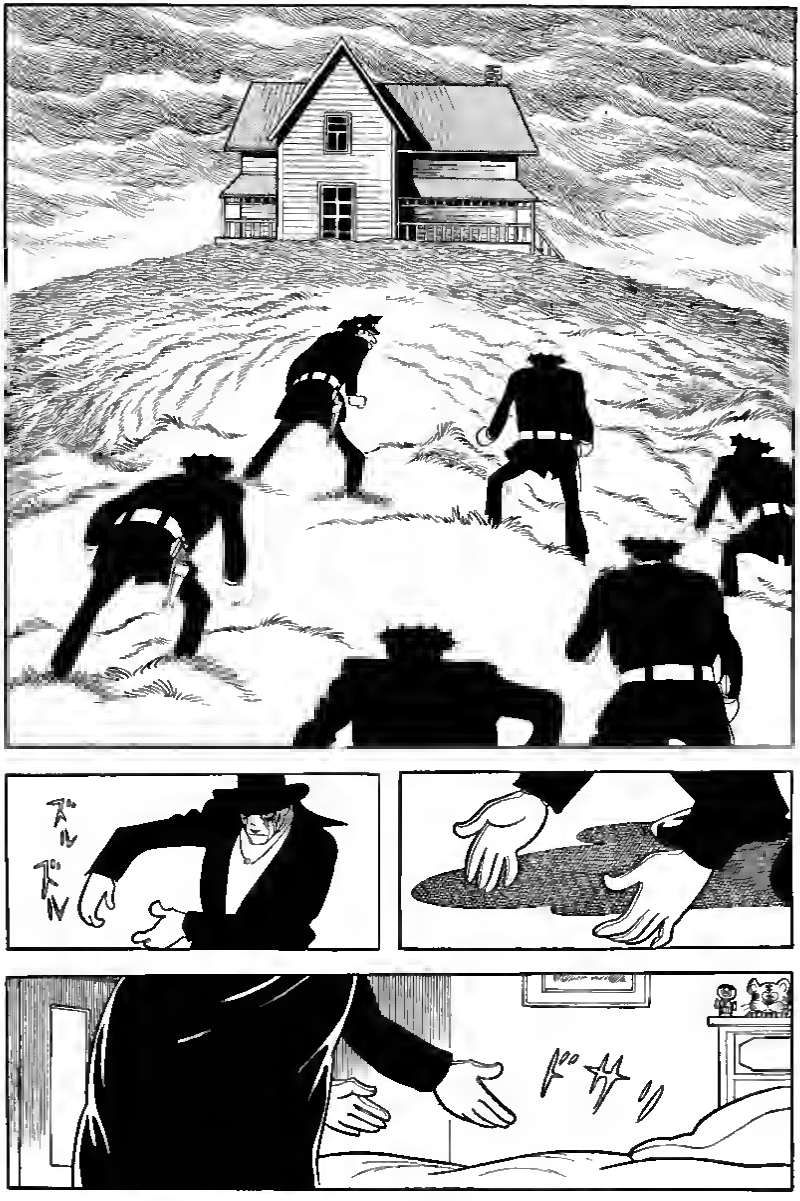

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' SO NERVOUS FOR?
COME ON THEN.
ALL I WANT IS A LIL' IT'S-GOOD-TO-SEE-YOU-AGAIN KISS
DON'T BE LIKE THAT. IT'S NOT AS IF I'M ASKIN' YOU TO MARRY ME THIS TIME.
C'MON, GIMME AT LEAST A KISS, WON'T YA?
BY THIS FACE OF MINE?
ARE YOU DISGUSTED?
N... NO...

NO WONDER I AIN'T SEEN THAT CARE-TAKER FOR A WHILE NOW...
YOU CALLED THE COPS, DIDN' YOU!?
THIS THE 2ND TIME YOU DECEIVED ME.
N-NO, STOP! PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU...!
TALKING AIN'T GONNA DO YOU ANY GOOD NOW.


I'M... I'M SORRY! I'LL DO ANYTHING! JUST DON'T KILL ME!
KYAA!
AGHHH! IT HUUUURRRTS! MY... MY FACE! IT... GAHHHHHH!


AND NOW YOU DEAD, GIRL.


I'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER THAT WAY.
I'MA ERASE EVERY LAST TRACE OF YOU.
THAT'S WHEN YOU DIE.
WHEN THE BODY TISSUE TURNS COMPLETELY INVISIBLE,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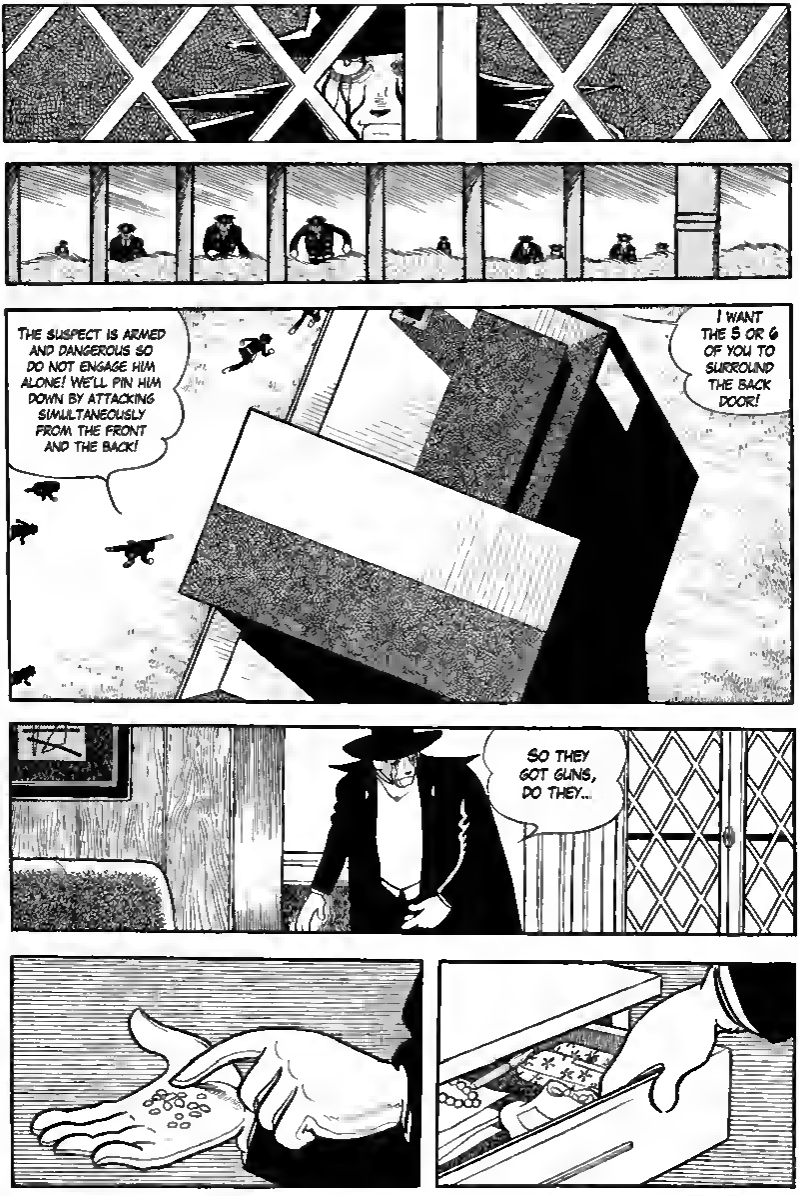
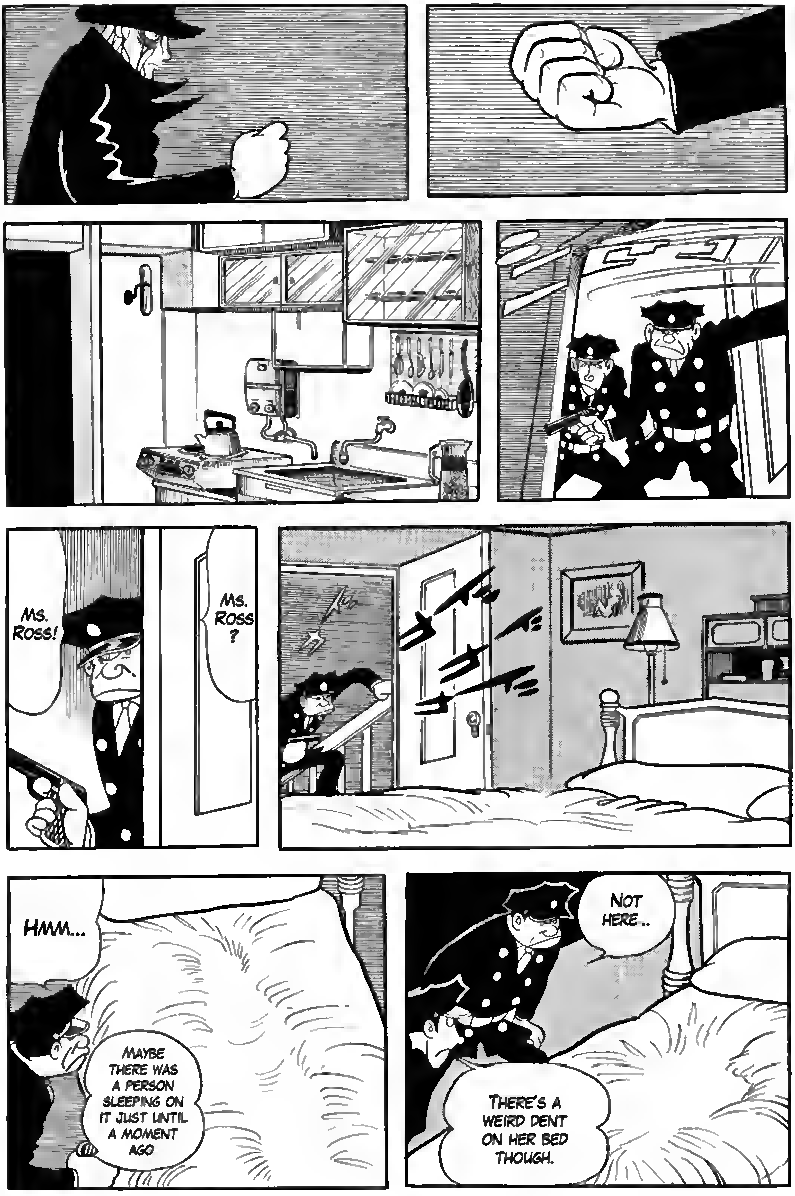
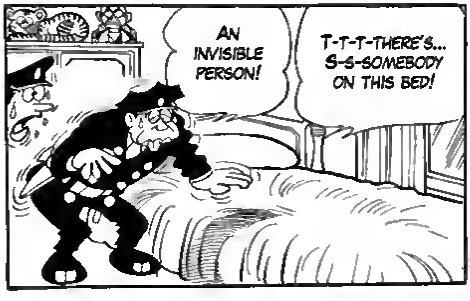
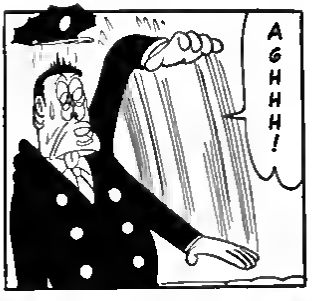
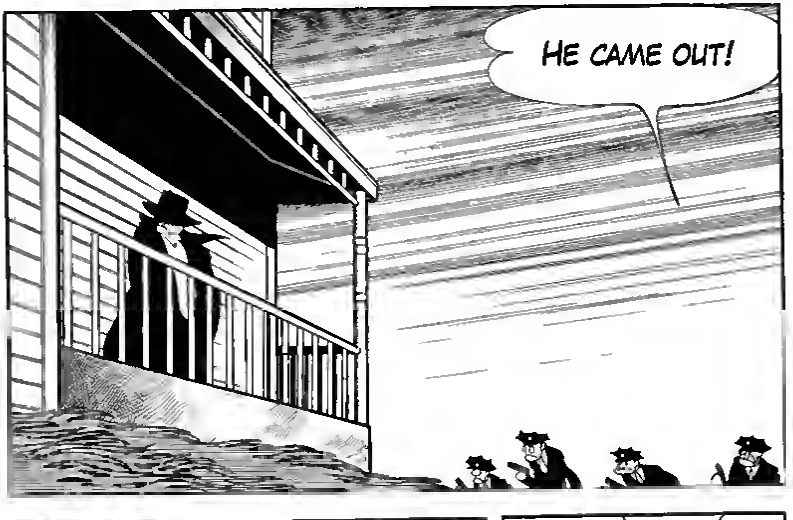

THE SUSPECT IS ARMED AND DANGEROUS SO DO NOT ENGAGE HIM ALONE! WE'LL PIN HIM DOWN BY ATTACKING SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM THE FRONT AND THE BACK!
I WANT THE 5 OR 6 OF YOU TO SURROUND THE BACK DOOR!
SO THEY GOT GUNS, DO THEY...


MS. ROSS!
MS. ROSS ?
HMM...
MAYBE THERE WAS A PERSON SLEEPING ON IT JUST UNTIL A MOMENT AGO
NOT HERE..
THERE'S A WEIRD DENT ON HER BED THOUGH.

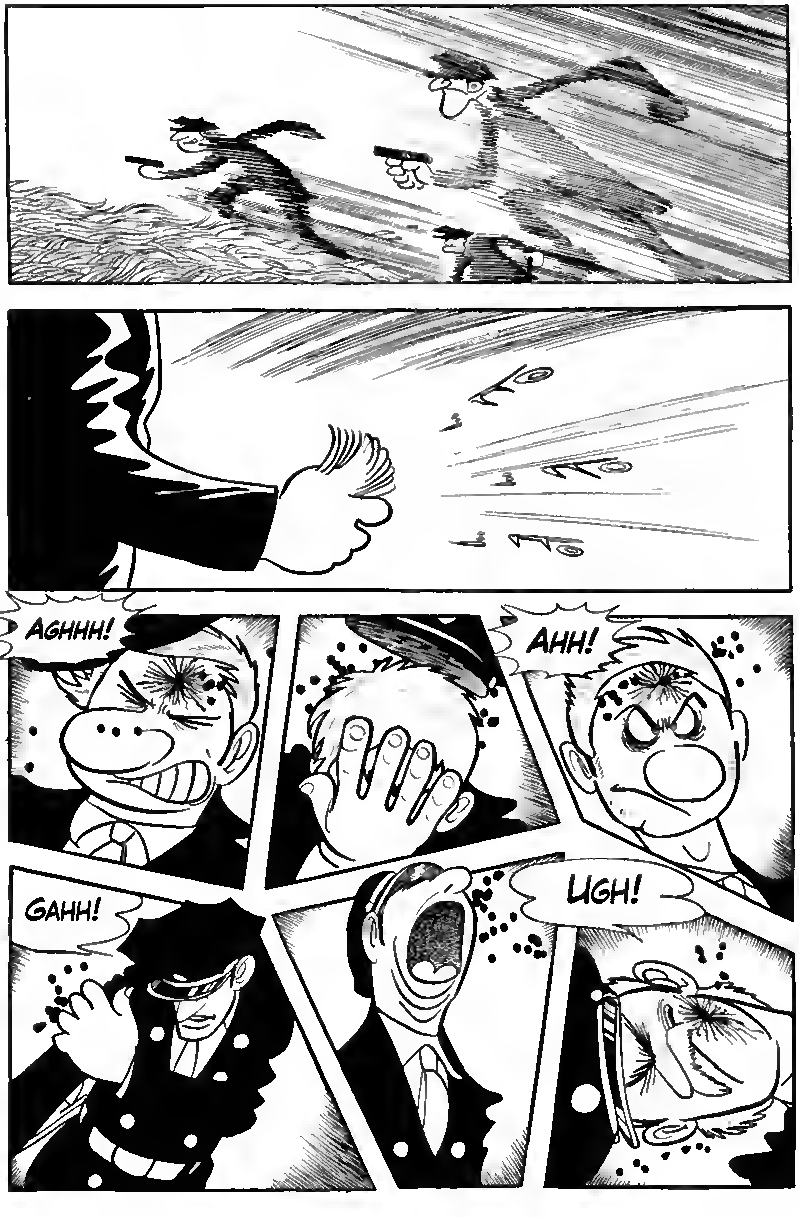

AN INVISIBLE PERSON!
T-T-T-THERE'S... S-S-SOMEBODY ON THIS BED!

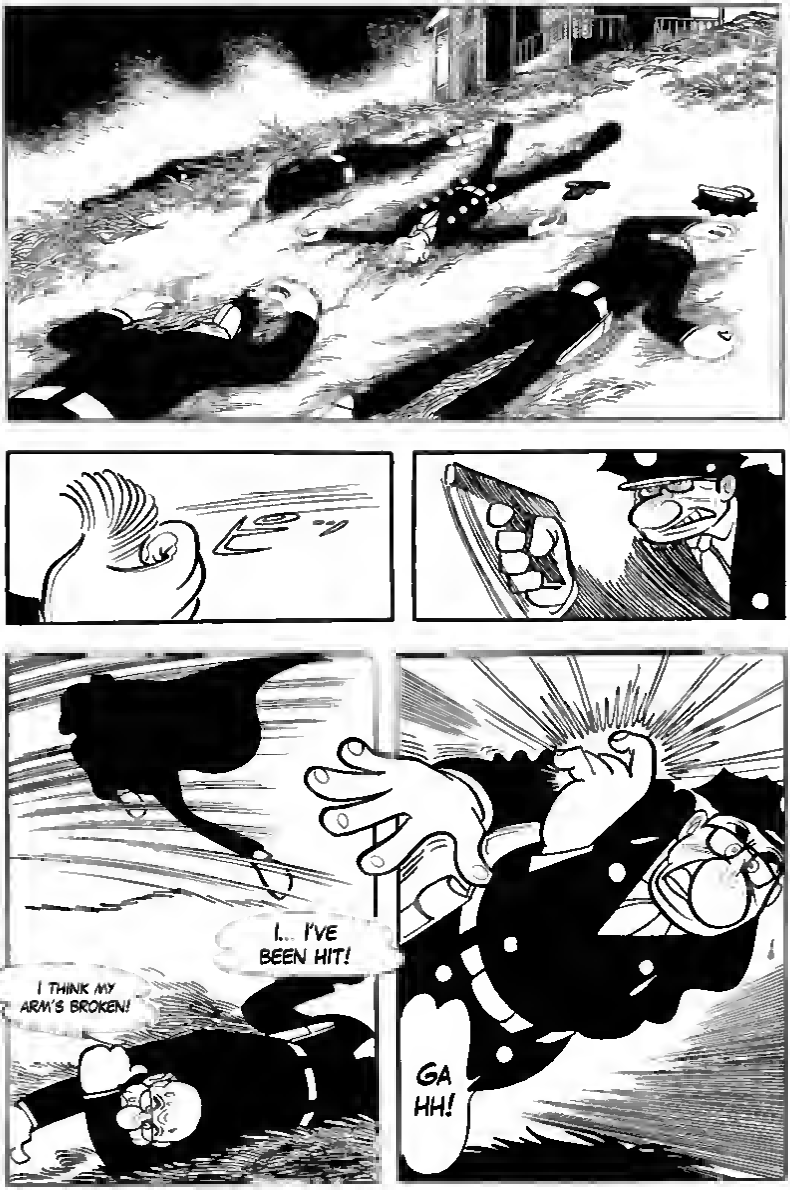

AGHHH!


HE CAME OUT!

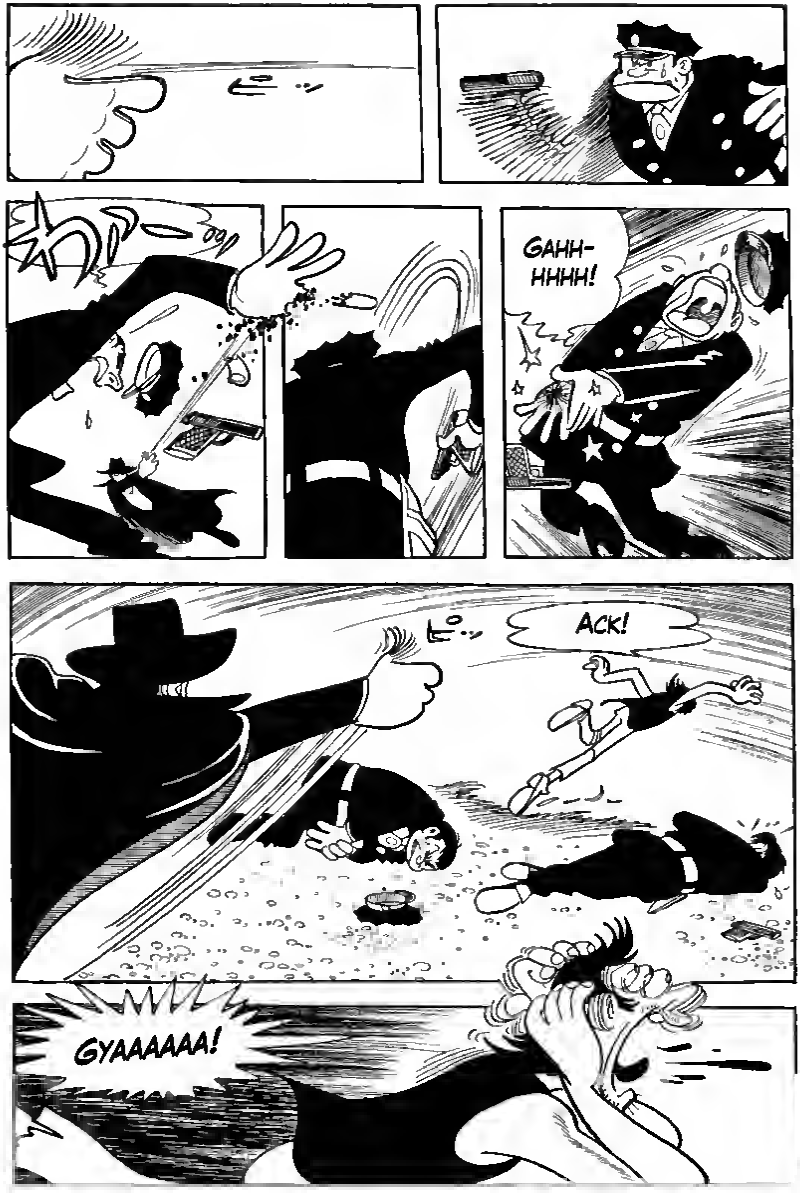
MOVE IN!

AND RAISE YOUR ARMS ABOVE YOUR HEAD! RESIST AND WE WILL OPEN FIRE!
LOWER YOUR WEAPON!

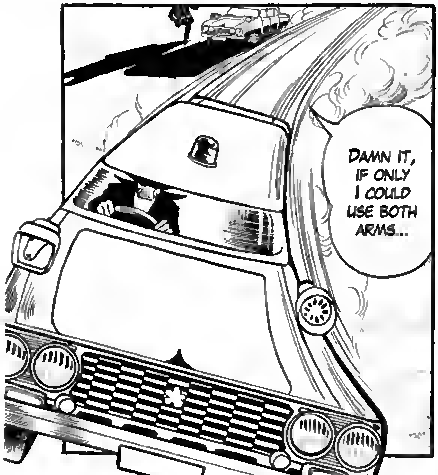

AGHHH!
AHH!
GAHH!
UGH!

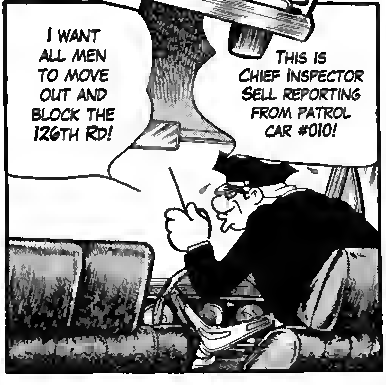

I... I'VE BEEN HIT!
I THINK MY ARM'S BROKEN!
GA HH!

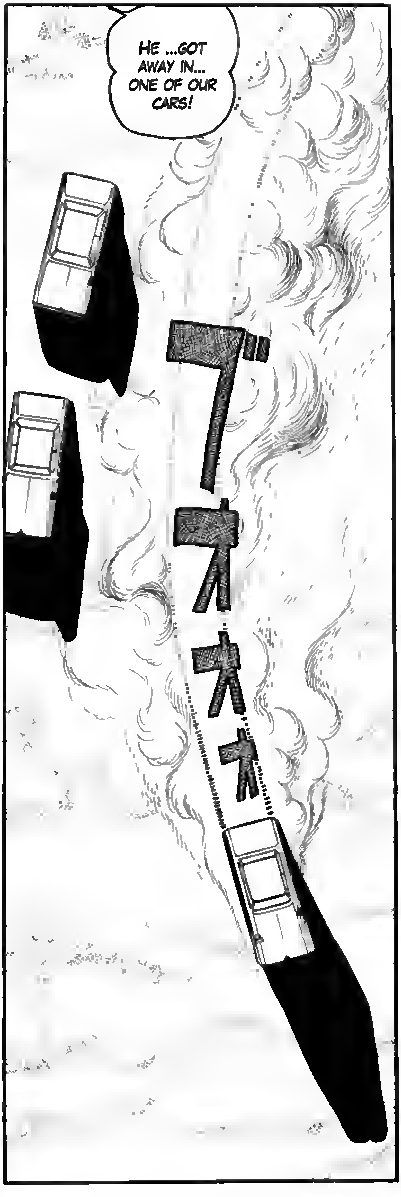
A PEANUT!?
IS THIS FOR REAL!?
WHAT!?
UGHH... JUST WHAT THE HELL DID HE SHOOT...
HAND THAT INVISIBLE CORPSE OVER TO ME.

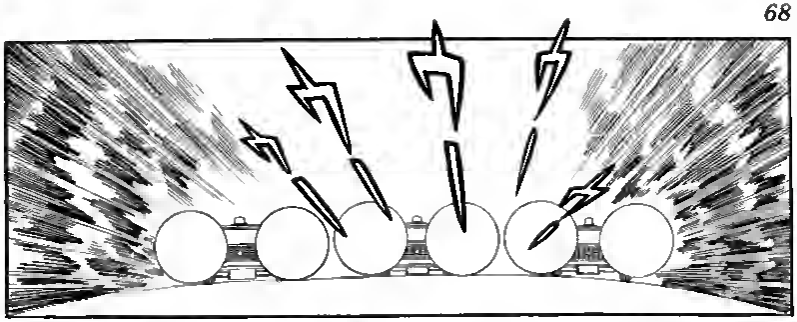

GAHH-
HHHH!
ACK!
GYAAAAAA!

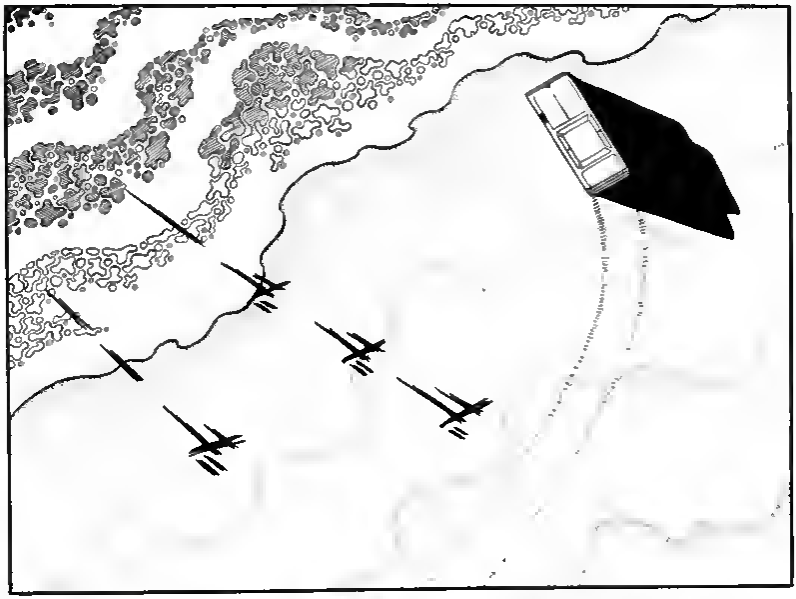
NGHH...

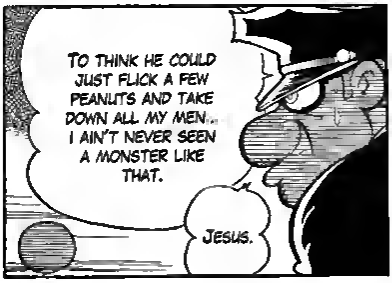

DAMN IT, IF ONLY I COULD USE BOTH ARMS...

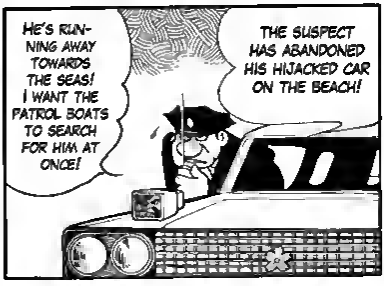

I WANT ALL MEN TO MOVE OUT AND BLOCK THE 126TH RD!
THIS IS CHIEF INSPECTOR SELL REPORTING FROM PATROL CAR #010!

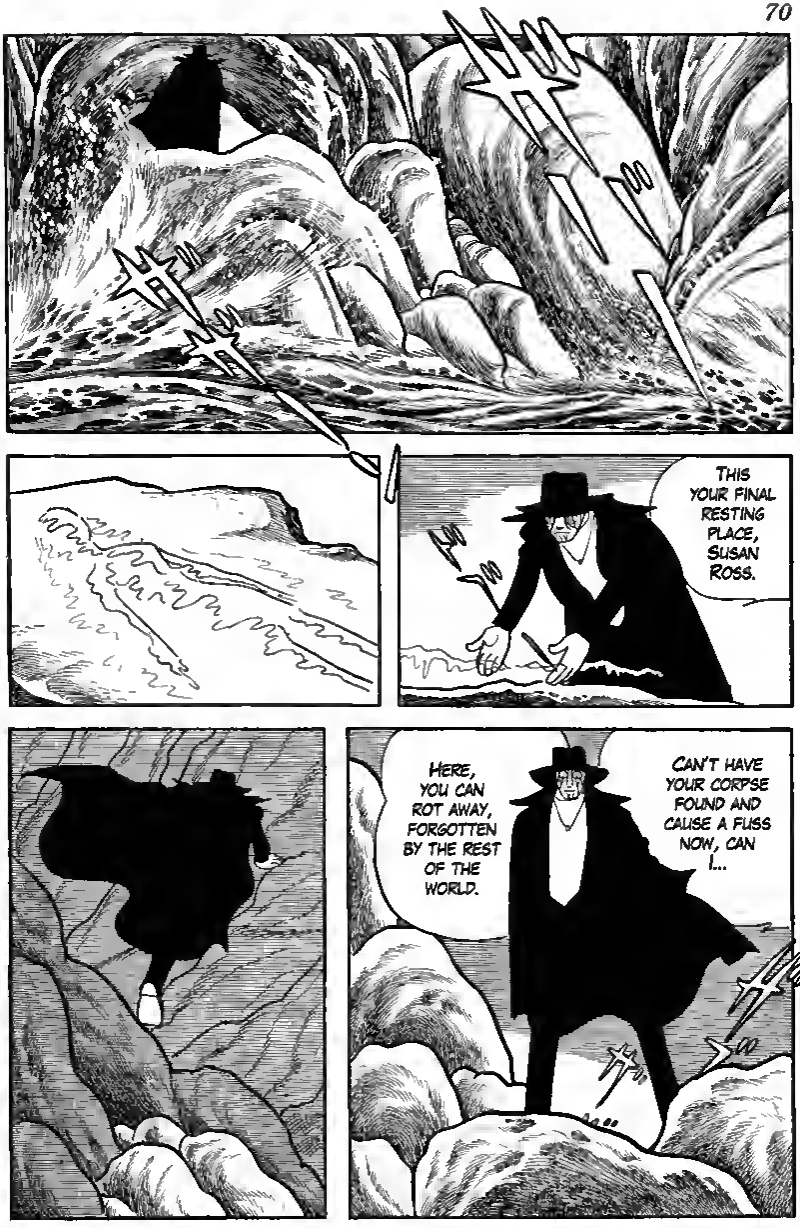

HE ...GOT AWAY IN... ONE OF OUR CARS!
ブオオオ



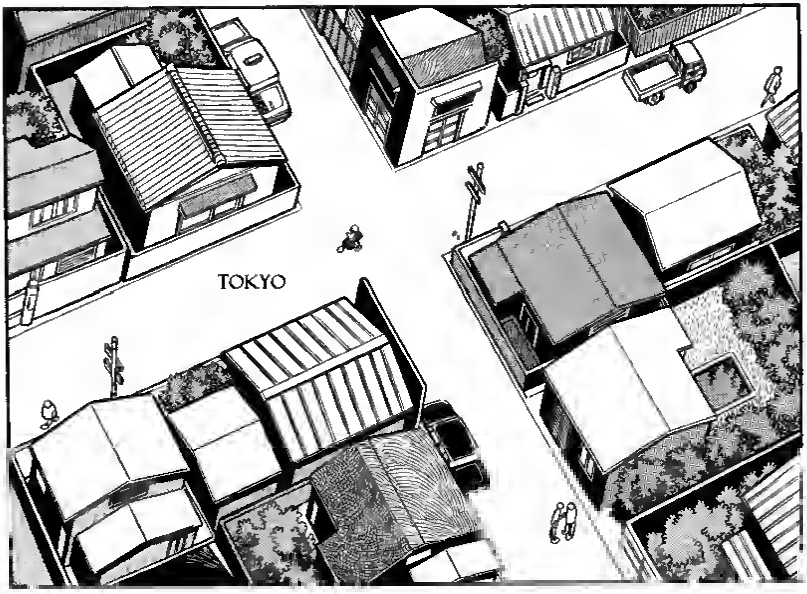


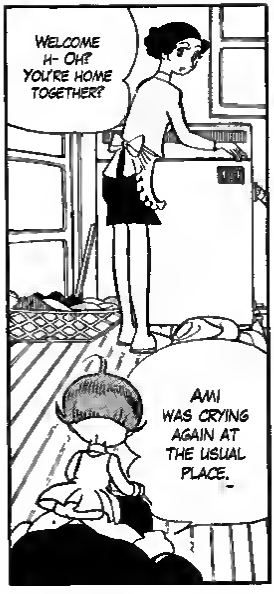

TO THINK HE COULD JUST FLICK A FEW PEANUTS AND TAKE DOWN ALL MY MEN.. I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A MONSTER LIKE THAT.
JESUS.

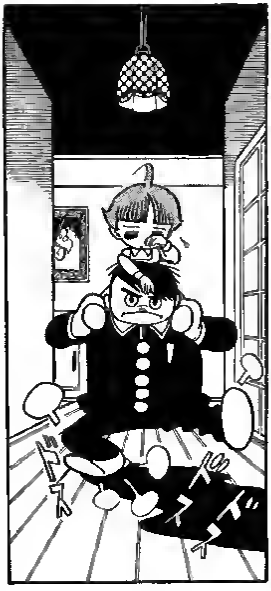

HE'S RUNNING AWAY TOWARDS THE SEAS! I WANT THE PATROL BOATS TO SEARCH FOR HIM AT ONCE!
THE SUSPECT HAS ABANDONED HIS HIJACKED CAR ON THE BEACH!


THIS YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE, SUSAN ROSS.
HERE, YOU CAN ROT AWAY, FORGOTTEN BY THE REST OF THE WORLD.
CAN'T HAVE YOUR CORPSE FOUND AND CAUSE A FUSS NOW, CAN I...

Chapter 2
Ami's Secret


TOKYO


WELCOME H- OH? YOU'RE HOME TOGETHER?
AMI WAS CRYING AGAIN AT THE USUAL PLACE.



DON'T BE LIKE THAT. YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG, AMI.
ALL THE OTHER KIDS KEEP MAKING FUN OF ME FOR BEING PAINTED LIKE A CLOWN
WERE YOU BULLIED AGAIN AT KINDER-GARTEN?
JUST IGNORE THEIR SILLY TAUNTING
BUT WHY IS IT ONLY ME THAT HAS TO PUT ON SO MUCH MAKEUP?
BECAUSE IF YOU CRY, YOUR MAKEUP WILL BE RUINED. NOW STAY STILL..
LAST TIME, WHEN IT WAS RAINING..
AND WHY CAN'T I TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF TOO?
NONE OF THE OTHER KIDS PUT ON ANY MAKEUP AT ALL!

BUT I WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT DIDN'T BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME NOT TO UNDRESS IN FRONT OF OTHERS
ALL THE OTHER KIDS TOOK OFF THEIR CLOTHES TO DRY THEM,
ALRIGHT... THEN DURING BATH TIME TONIGHT...
NO, I WANNA KNOW NOW!
I'M SORRY DEAR, BUT YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.
YOU SAID YOU NEEDED ME AS A MODEL?
I'M HERE!
OH HEY.
TEE HEE!
YEAH, TO TAKE PICTURES

Don't you want me to do some sort of pose?
Hm?
Hey, Kanihei! I hear that a good photographer can make anything he captures on camera beautiful no matter how skinny or fat it is. D'you suppose that's true?
Enough talking and just sit down over there.
カメッ
'Cause you're pretty good with the camera, you know. Plus you're persistent enough to be a reporter.
Hey, are you planning to be a cameraman for the papers when you grow up?
You know, that's the kind of guy who's just my type...
She's a top-rate lawyer with a strong sense of justice, isn't she?
You must've gotten it from your mom.

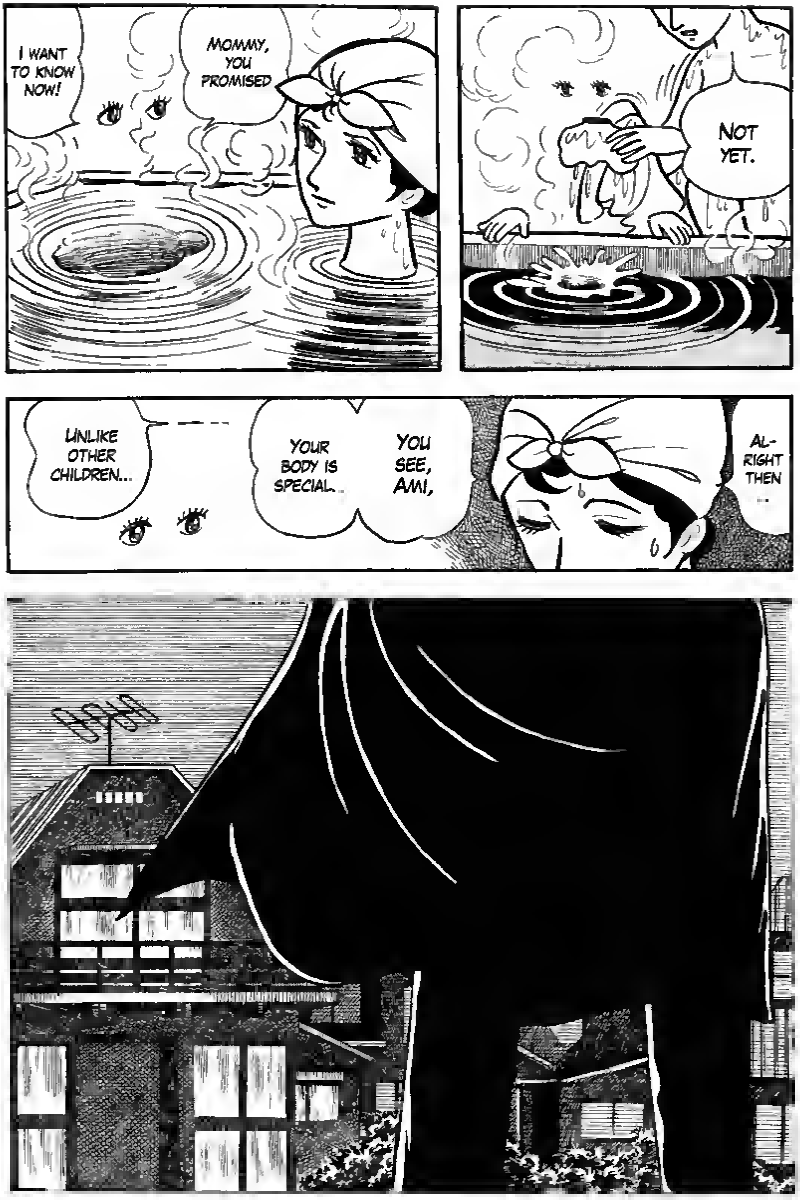
FOR THIS.
SO WHAT'RE YOU USING MY PHOTO FOR?
ANYWAYS, YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.
BE QUIET.
IS THIS REALLY THE JAPAN WE WANT?
Is this really the Japan we want? Let us take the time to reflect
Insert photo here
While children in Japan are becoming more and more like the figure on the left,
In Africa, there are countless of children starving to death,
YOU'RE PLANNING TO SUBMIT THIS FOR OUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER!?
YOU CAN JUST GO STRAIGHT TO HELL!
ハヴ

Well, it's the truth.
Oh my. Anybody would get mad if this happened to them.
What happened to Tonda? I saw her storming off furiously.
Yes, but that's only in court to bring justice to those who've committed crimes.
But don't you always say that truth is justice...?
Yes, it is the truth, but it's also a violation of her personal rights.
Haha. I can be pretty mean out there, kiddo
But you're such a kind lawyer.
But even so, speaking the truth is sometimes enough to make others resent you.
W-when did you find out!?
But still nice enough to adopt the child of a man you convicted.

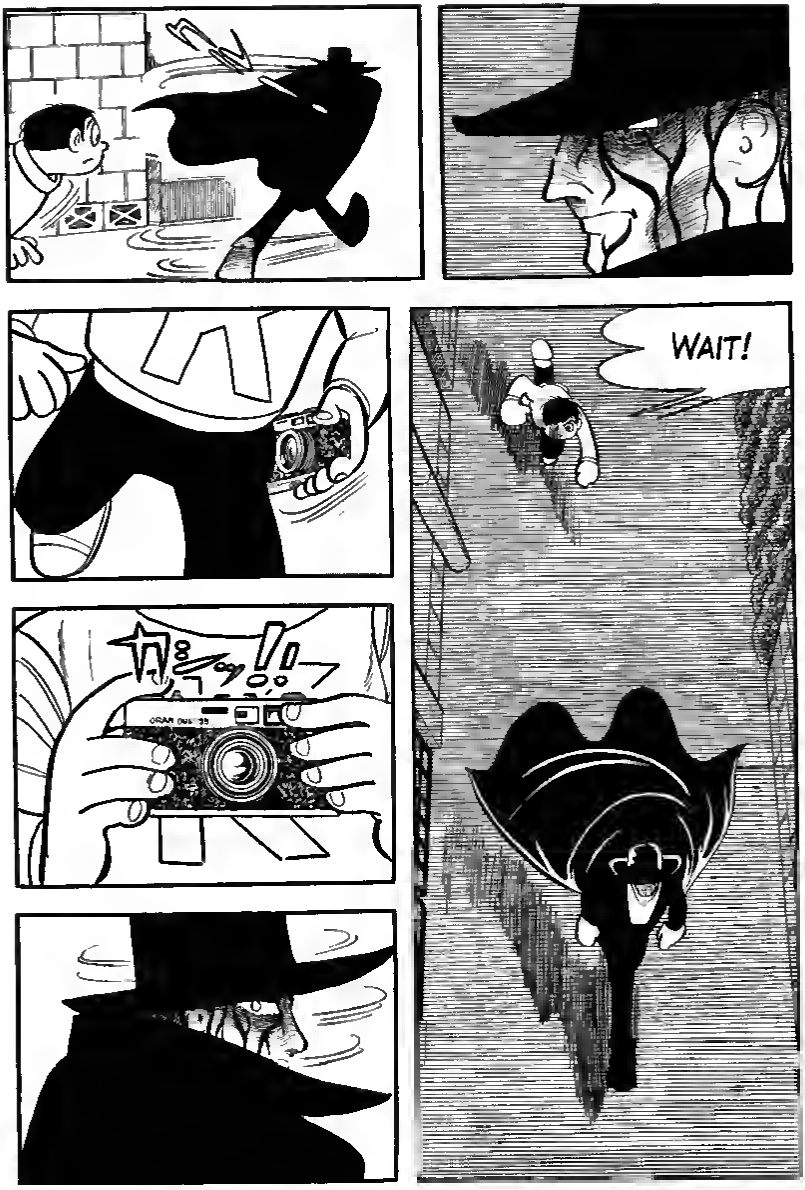
I'M IN THE 8TH GRADE, MOM. YOU CAN'T HIDE THESE THINGS FROM ME FOREVER.
IN ANY CASE, I'M JUST WORRIED FOR AMI WHEN SHE LEARNS THE TRUTH LATER ON.
WELL... I ALWAYS INTENDED ON TELLING THE TRUTH TO BOTH YOU AND AMI EVENTUALLY ONE DAY.
THIS SO-CALLED SCIENTIST KILLED HIS OWN DAUGHTER IN ONE OF HIS OWN EXPERIMENTS! NOT ONLY THAT, HE EVEN FORCED A NEWBORN BABY TO BE HIS LIVE TEST SUBJECT!
AND HE DID ALL THIS WITH A SOUND MIND!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT, HEE HEE HEE...

I ASK THE JUDGE TO PLEASE PRONOUNCE HIM GUILTY!
THIS MAN HAS NO RIGHT TO EVEN PLEAD INSANITY AS A DEFENSE!
FOR THE CRIME OF MURDER AND ILLEGAL EXPERIMENTATION ON HUMANS,
RATHER HYPO-CRITICAL, IT SEEMS TO ME
WHILE TREATING A GENUINE EXPERIMENTAL ERROR AS A COLD-BLOODED MURDER.
NO, NOTHING REALLY. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE ABSURDITY IN TREATING A GAS OR TOXIC WASTE LEAK KILLING HUNDREDS AS A PURE ACCIDENT,
DOES THE DEFENDANT HAVE ANYTHING HE'D LIKE TO SAY?
THIS ALL HAPPENED BACK WHEN I WAS WORKING AS A DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN AMERICA.
IS YOUR LITTLE SISTER, AMI.
THAT BABY WHO WAS USED AS A TEST SUBJECT,
KIDDING, KIDDING. HAHA...
WELL, IF YOU WANT ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT, I SURE COULD USE AN ADVANCE ON MY ALLOWANCE
IT'S BATH TIME.
AMI.

LET'S GET ALL YOUR MAKEUP OFF BEFORE YOU GET INTO THE BATH.


I WANT TO KNOW NOW!
MOMMY, YOU PROMISED
NOT YET.
UNLIKE OTHER CHILDREN...
YOUR BODY IS SPECIAL..
YOU SEE, AMI,
AL-RIGHT THEN ..

WHO'S THERE?
HUH?
WHO'RE YOU, MISTER?
WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT OUR HOUSE FOR? DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH MY MOM!?
SHE'S A LAWYER, YOU KNOW!
ARE YOU ONE OF THE BAD GUYS THAT HAVE A GRUDGE ON HER FOR BEING CONVICTED GUILTY?
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE?
TO THREATEN HER?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW MY MOM'S NOT THE TYPE TO GET SCARED THAT EASILY!


WAIT!

Y-YOU THINK I'LL JUST GIVE IT TO YOU BECAUSE YOU SAID SO? I'M KEEPING THIS PICTURE TO SHOW TO MY MOM!
GIVE THAT HERE, KID.
MAYBE IF YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, I'LL MAIL IT TO YA!
NOW GIVE ME THAT CAMERA
I AIN'T GOT NO BUSINESS WIT' YOUR MOM.
SO YOU WANNA GET HURT, EH?
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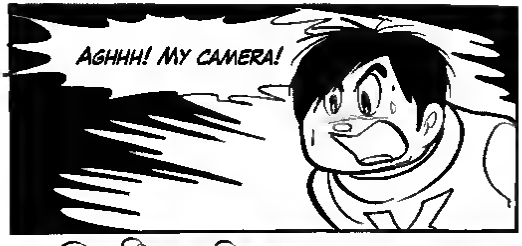
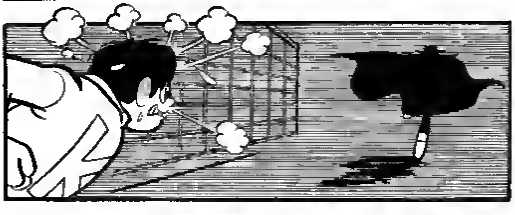
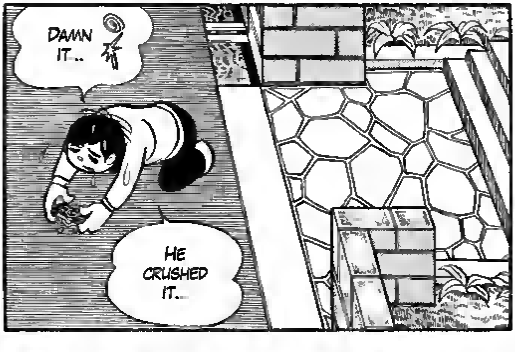
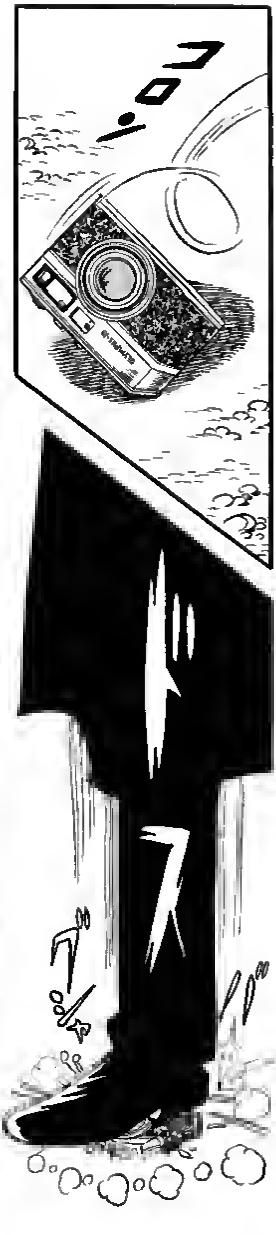

AGHHH! MY CAMERA!




DAMN IT..
HE CRUSHED IT..

I'LL REMEMBER THIS .



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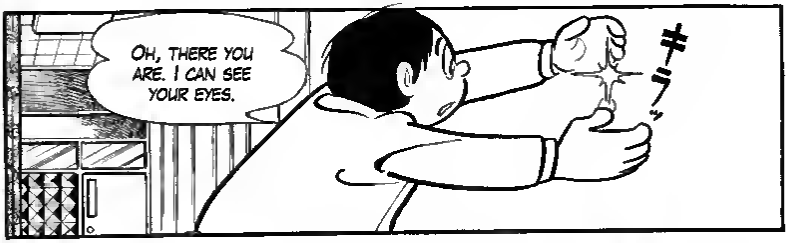
AMI!?
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING MAKE YOU CRY?
MOMMY SAID... SHE SAID...
SHE SAID I WASN'T HER CHILD!
WHERE ARE YOU?

C'MON. STOP HIDING!
NOW SHOW ME WHERE YOU ARE.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D SAY THAT.

AND SHE SAID THAT I WAS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER KIDS... THAT ONLY MY BODY IS INVISIBLE...


OH, THERE YOU ARE. I CAN SEE YOUR EYES.
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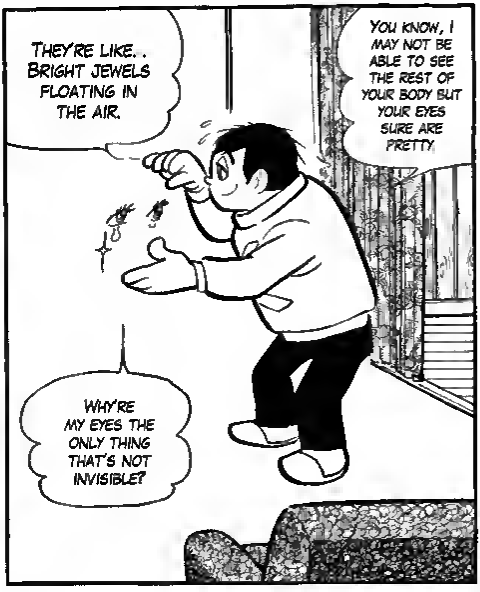
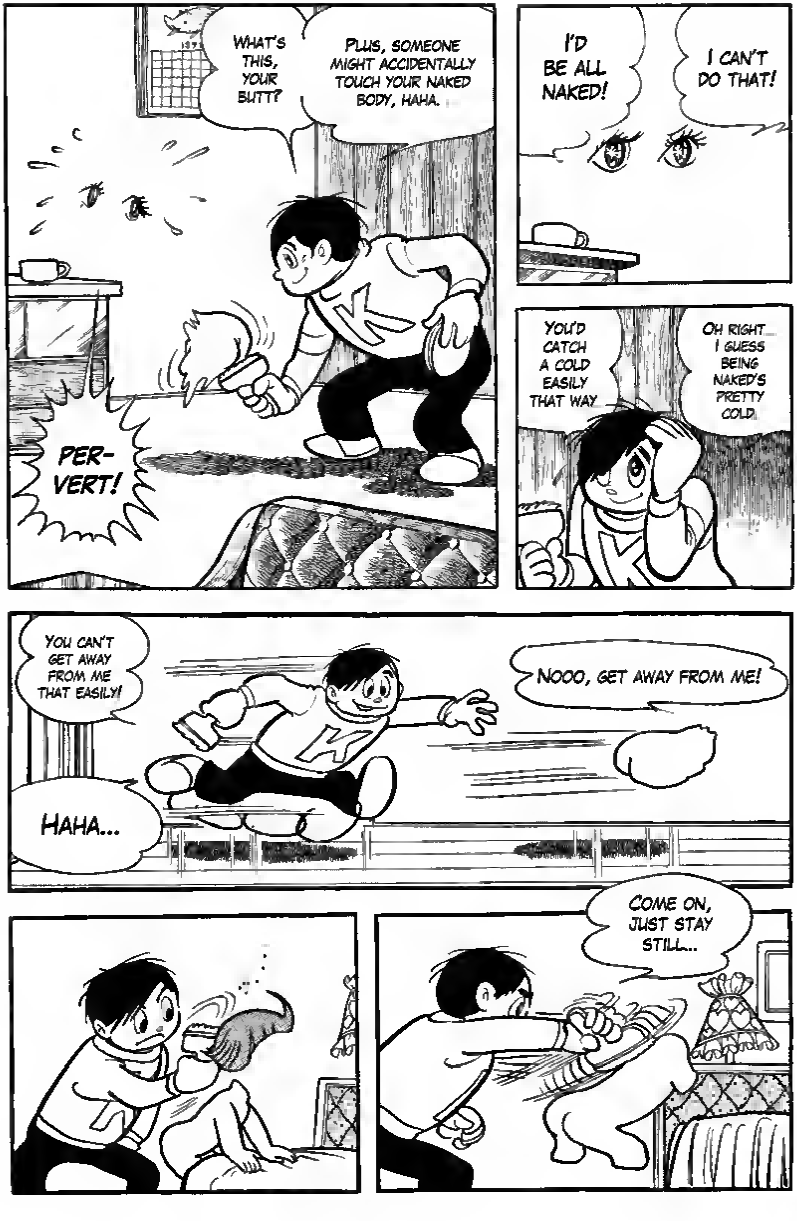
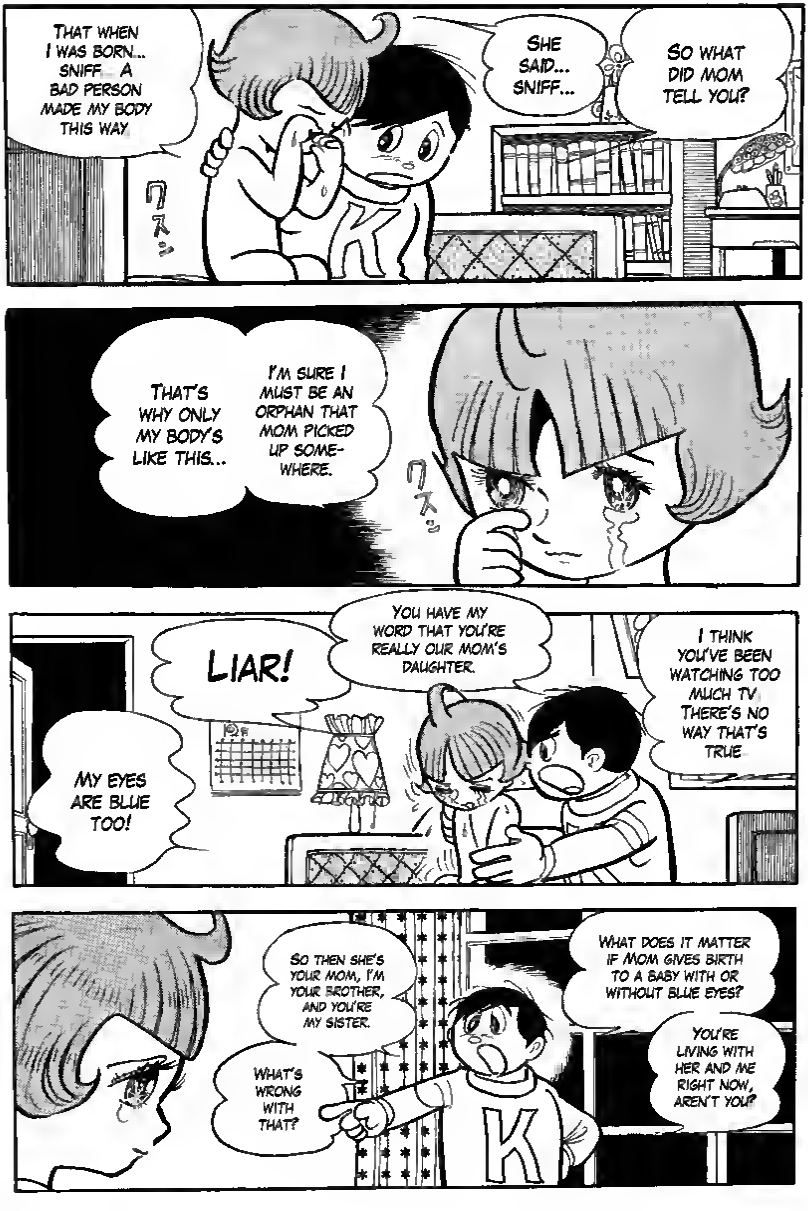
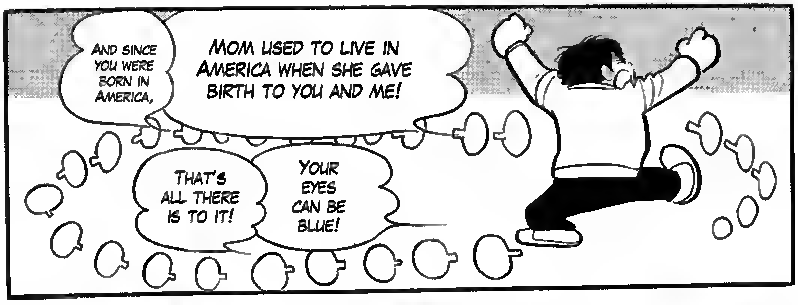
TO BE HONEST, I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS OF YOU, Y'KNOW.
YOU CAN TURN INVISIBLE AT ANY TIME JUST BY TAKING OFF YOUR CLOTHES AND GET IN FREE INTO MOVIES OR BASEBALL GAMES.


THEY'RE LIKE.. BRIGHT JEWELS FLOATING IN THE AIR.
YOU KNOW, I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE REST OF YOUR BODY BUT YOUR EYES SURE ARE PRETTY.
WHY'RE MY EYES THE ONLY THING THAT'S NOT INVISIBLE?

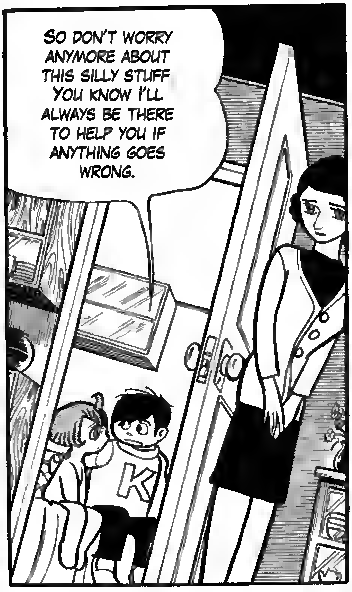

WHAT'S THIS, YOUR BUTT?
PLUS, SOMEONE MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY TOUCH YOUR NAKED BODY, HAHA.
PER-VERT!
I'D BE ALL NAKED!
I CAN'T DO THAT!
YOU'D CATCH A COLD EASILY THAT WAY
OH RIGHT... I GUESS BEING NAKED'S PRETTY COLD.
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME THAT EASILY!
NOOO, GET AWAY FROM ME!
HAHA...
COME ON, JUST STAY STILL...

THERE, ALL DONE!
STOP CRYIN'!
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE AND WORRY ABOUT YOU AS A BROTHER.
.....
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP CRYING SO MUCH ALL THE TIME.

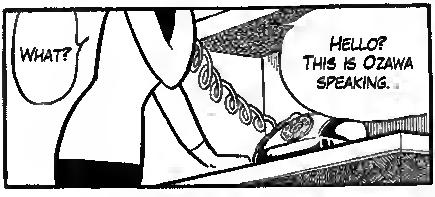

THAT WHEN I WAS BORN... SNIFF... A BAD PERSON MADE MY BODY THIS WAY
SHE SAID... SNIFF...
SO WHAT DID MOM TELL YOU?
THAT'S WHY ONLY MY BODY'S LIKE THIS...
I'M SURE I MUST BE AN ORPHAN THAT MOM PICKED UP SOMEWHERE.
LIAR!
YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT YOU'RE REALLY OUR MOM'S DAUGHTER.
I THINK YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO MUCH TV THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S TRUE
MY EYES ARE BLUE TOO!
SO THEN SHE'S YOUR MOM, I'M YOUR BROTHER, AND YOU'RE MY SISTER.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF MOM GIVES BIRTH TO A BABY WITH OR WITHOUT BLUE EYES?
YOU'RE LIVING WITH HER AND ME RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?


AND SINCE YOU WERE BORN IN AMERICA,
MOM USED TO LIVE IN AMERICA WHEN SHE GAVE BIRTH TO YOU AND ME!
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
YOUR EYES CAN BE BLUE!

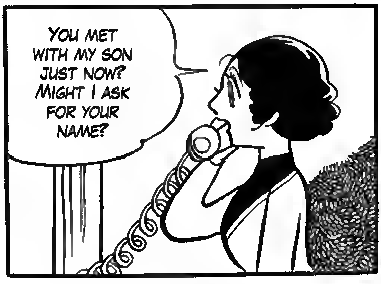
THANK YOU, KANIHEI...


SO DON'T WORRY ANYMORE ABOUT THIS SILLY STUFF YOU KNOW I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE TO HELP YOU IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG.

RING RING RING


WHAT?
HELLO? THIS IS OZAWA SPEAKING..

MY NAME? HMM.. I S'POSE YOU CAN JUST CALL ME ALABASTER...


YOU MET WITH MY SON JUST NOW? MIGHT I ASK FOR YOUR NAME?

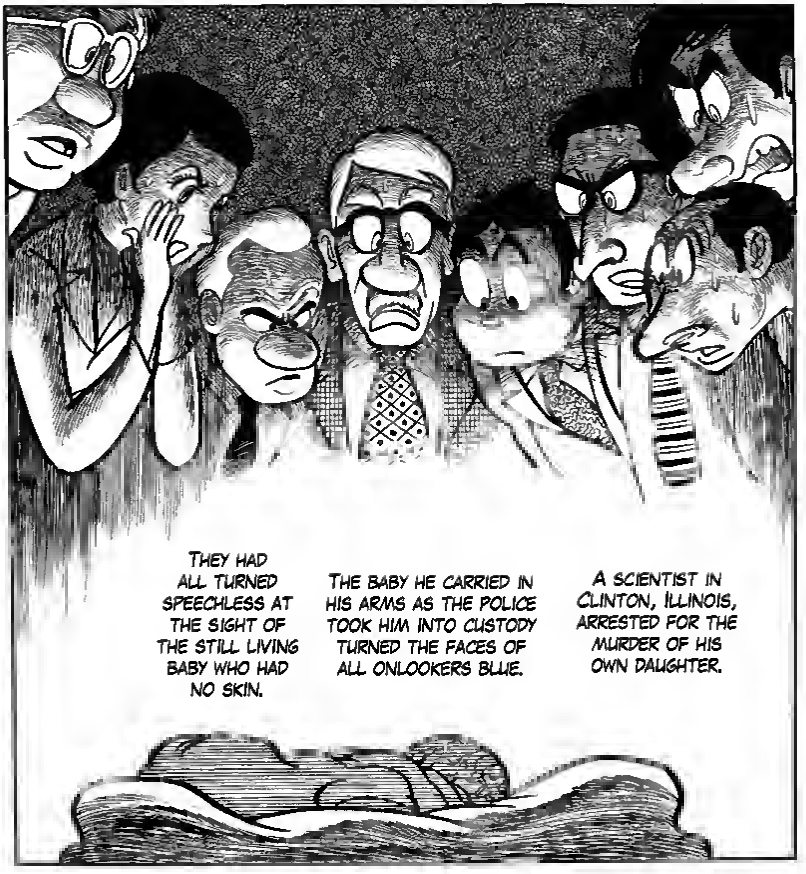
IN ANY CASE, THE PERSON I HAVE BUSINESS IS WIT' YOUR DAUGHTER, AMI... SHE'S ADOPTED, ISN'T SHE...?

HER GRANDPA!? THE ONE WHO'S CONVICTED FOR LIFE...?
THE GIRL'S GRANDPA TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT

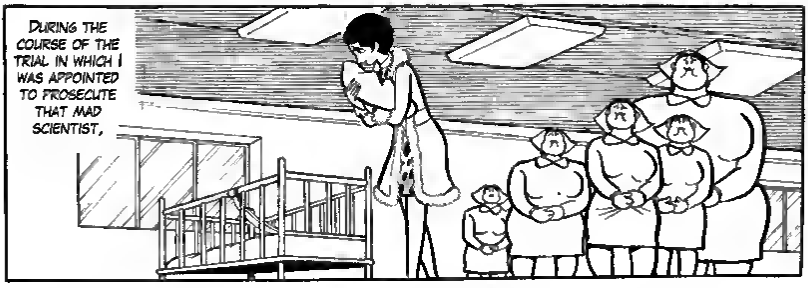
BUT HE ALSO ASKED ME TO TAKE HER INTO MY CARE NOW...
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

THAT'S RIGHT. THE ONE YOU PUT AWAY IN PRISON.
NO HARD FEELINGS, THOUGH. HE SAID HE WAS THANKFUL FOR YOU TAKIN' CARE OF HER.

YOU DO REALIZE THIS IS A REQUEST COMIN' FROM THAT CHILD'S FLESH AN' BLOOD RELATIVE, DON'CHA?
I CAN'T GIVE HER AWAY TO SOME RANDOM STRANGER I'VE NEVER EVEN MET!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH SUFFERING THAT GIRL'S BEEN THROUGH!
FLESH AND BLOOD RELATIVE!? YOU MEAN THE SAME FLESH AND BLOOD RELATIVE THAT SUBJECTED HER TO ONE OF HIS SICK EXPERIMENTS!? THE SAME ONE WHO KILLED HER MOTHER!?
THAT INCIDENT EXPLODED INTO A HUGE MEDIA FRENZY RIGHT FROM THE START...

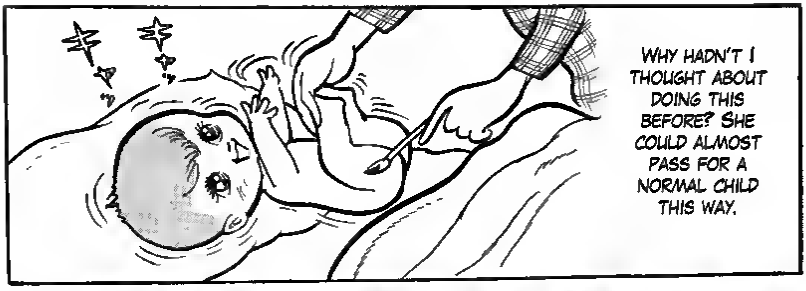

THEY HAD ALL TURNED SPEECHLESS AT THE SIGHT OF THE STILL LIVING BABY WHO HAD NO SKIN.
THE BABY HE CARRIED IN HIS ARMS AS THE POLICE TOOK HIM INTO CUSTODY TURNED THE FACES OF ALL ONLOOKERS BLUE.
A SCIENTIST IN CLINTON, ILLINOIS, ARRESTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS OWN DAUGHTER.

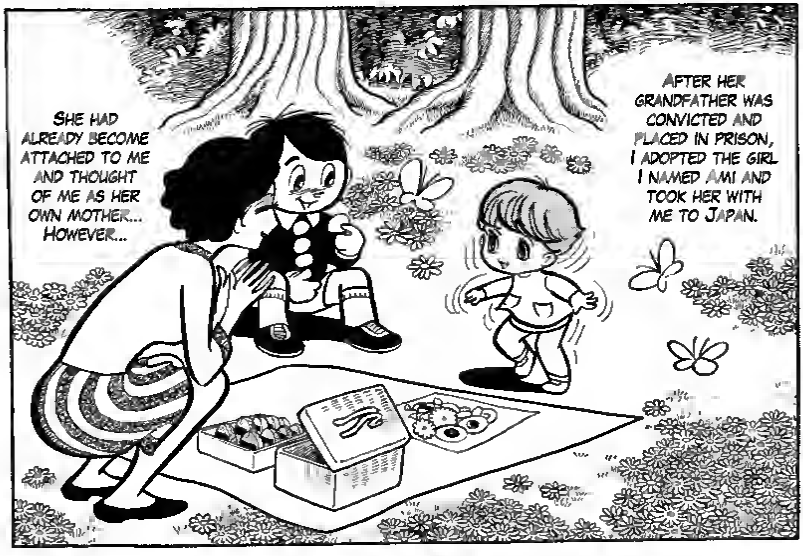
BUT WHY HAD IT TURNED INVISIBLE? WAS IT A SICKNESS OR SOMETHING ELSE?
AT THE HOSPITAL, THEY REALIZED THAT SHE DID IN FACT POSSESS SKIN BUT IT WAS INVISIBLE


During the course of the trial in which I was appointed to prosecute that mad scientist,

By the time a year had passed, I could only make out her skeleton. One day, the idea of painting her with harmless pigments came to me and when I tried it.. The cutest little child I had ever seen was crawling in front of me.

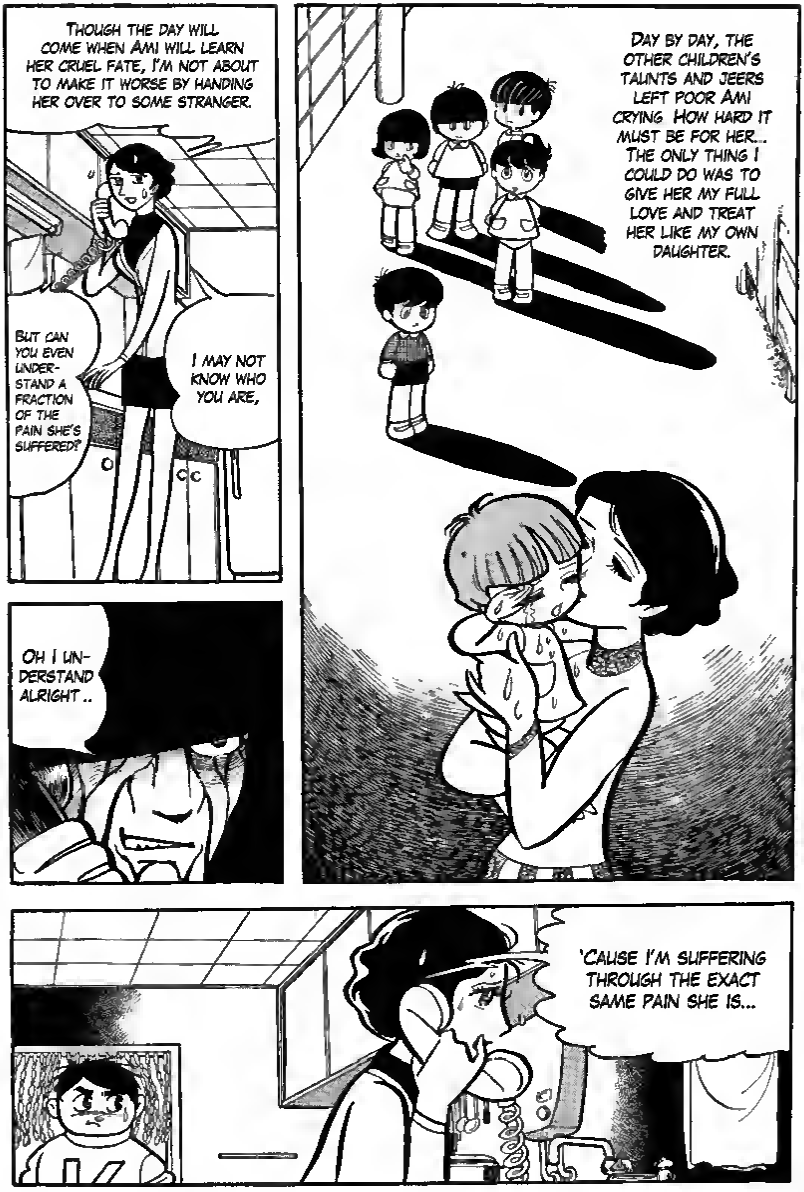
As time passed on, even her blood vessels turned invisible and I could only see her organs which made her look like a lump of meat.
I also accepted to look after that child temporarily.


WHY HADN'T I THOUGHT ABOUT DOING THIS BEFORE? SHE COULD ALMOST PASS FOR A NORMAL CHILD THIS WAY.


SHE HAD ALREADY BECOME ATTACHED TO ME AND THOUGHT OF ME AS HER OWN MOTHER... HOWEVER...
AFTER HER GRANDFATHER WAS CONVICTED AND PLACED IN PRISON, I ADOPTED THE GIRL I NAMED AMI AND TOOK HER WITH ME TO JAPAN.

GO AWAY, CLOWN!

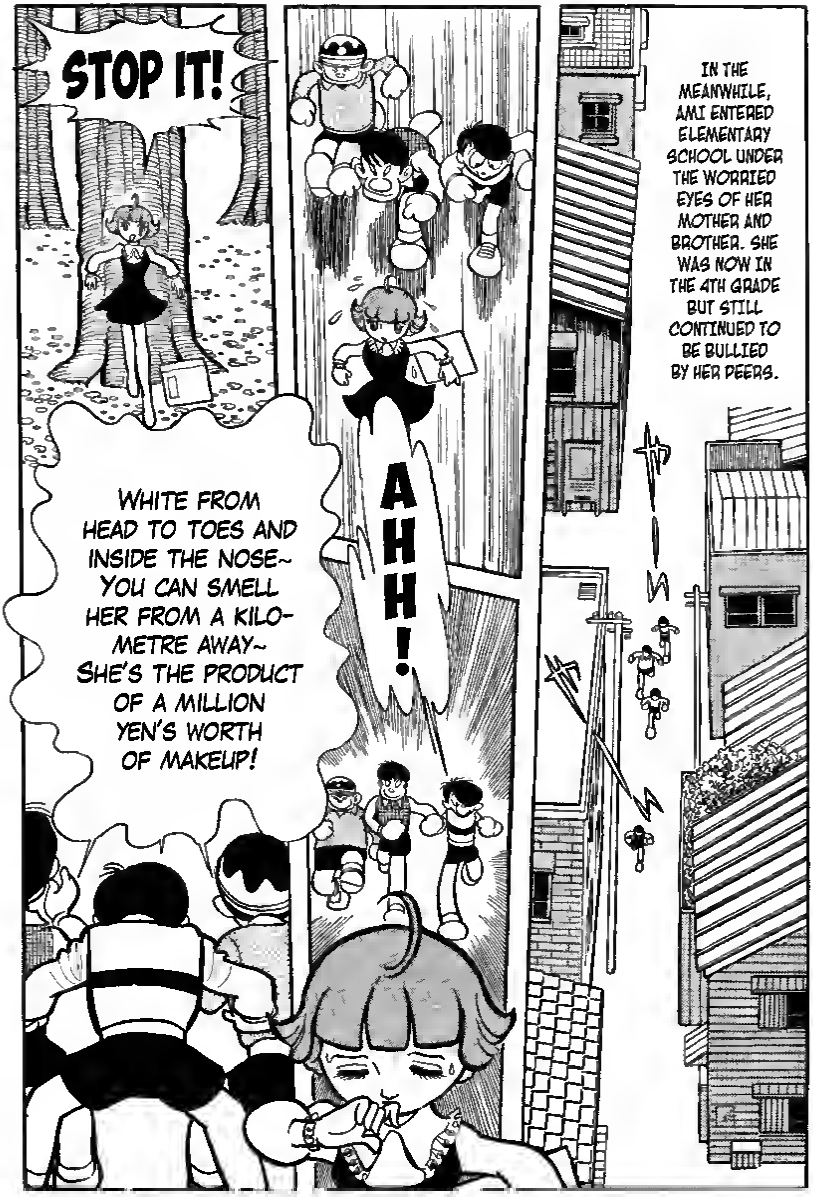
THE OTHER CHILDREN WERE KEEN TO NOTICE AMI'S PECULIAR LOOKS.


Though the day will come when Ami will learn her cruel fate, I'm not about to make it worse by handing her over to some stranger.
But can you even understand a fraction of the pain she's suffered?
I may not know who you are,
Day by day, the other children's taunts and jeers left poor Ami crying. How hard it must be for her... The only thing I could do was to give her my full love and treat her like my own daughter.
Oh I understand alright..
'Cause I'm suffering through the exact same pain she is...

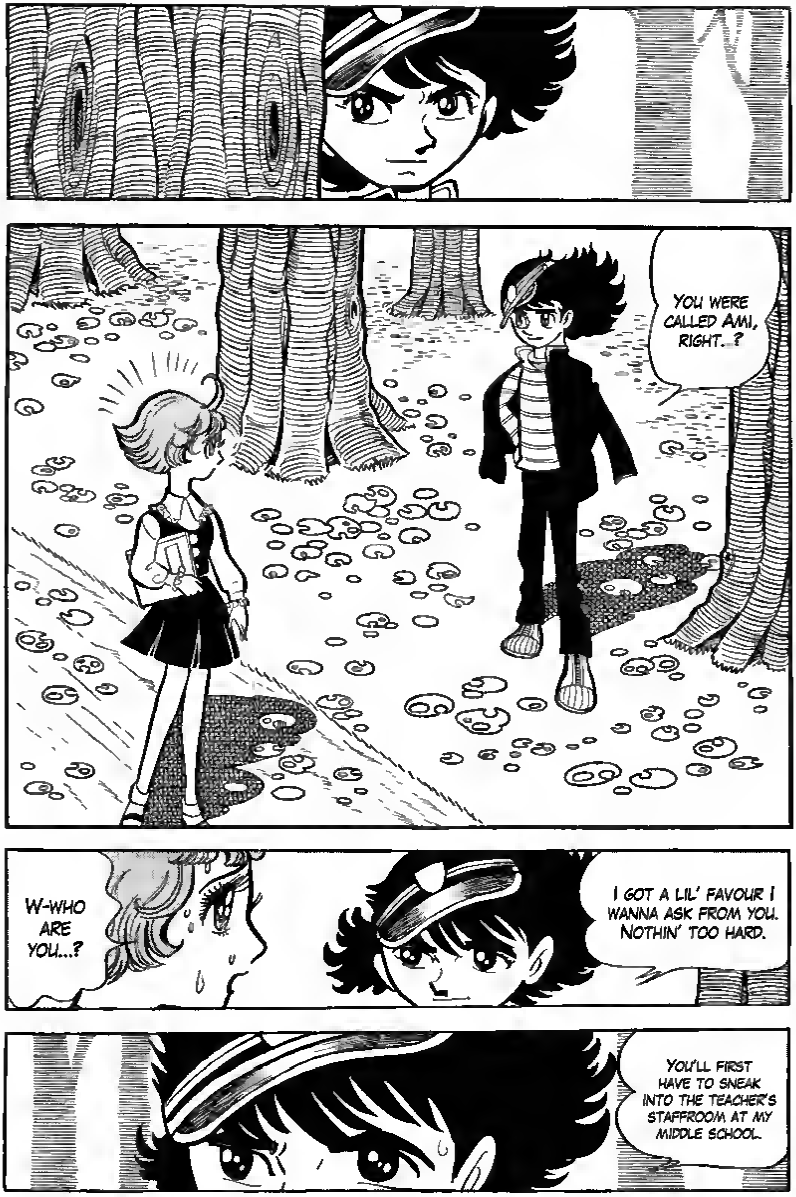
I'M GON' RAISE THAT GIRL THE WAY I SEE FIT. 'CAUSE WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, I'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO DO THAT!
EITHER WAY, I'LL BE COMIN' TO TAKE THAT CHILD AWAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Chapter 3
Gen the Delinquent

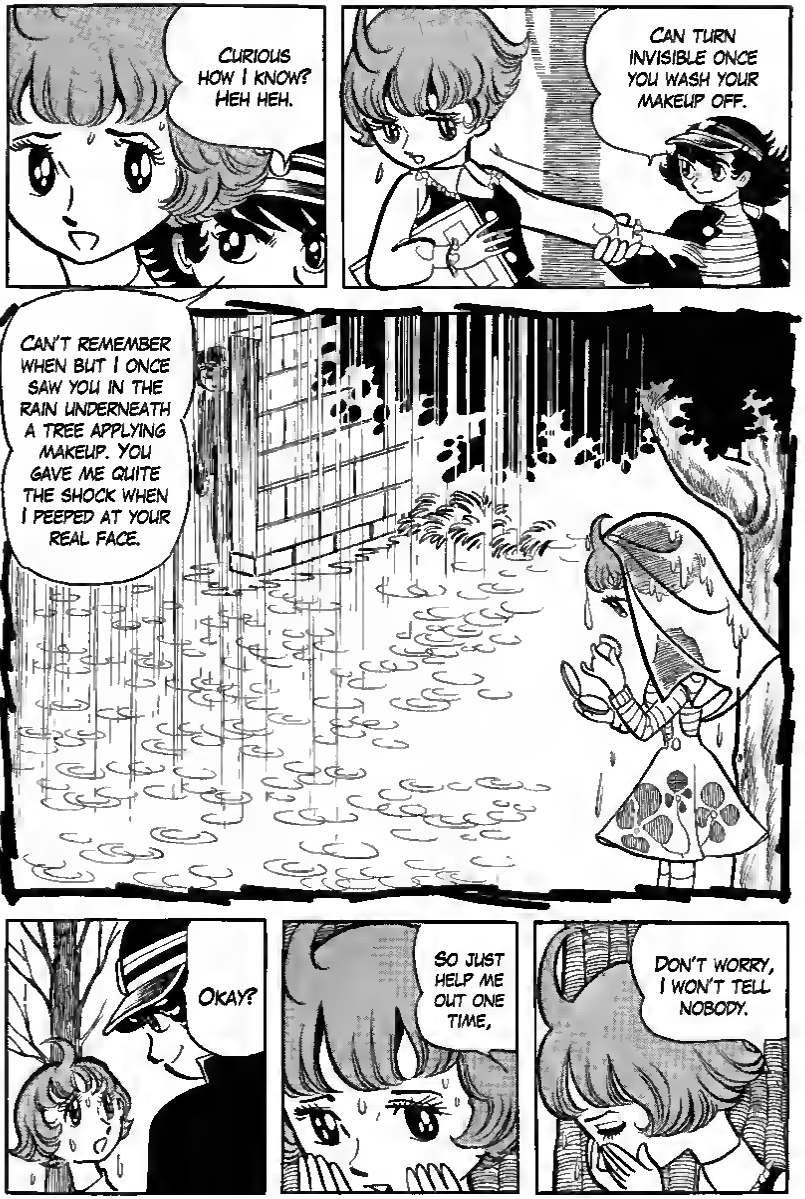
5 YEARS,
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
SOON PASSED.
DURING THAT TIME, THE MONSTER KNOWN AS ALABASTER DID NOT TRY TO APPEAR BEFORE AMI.


STOP IT!
AHH!
WHITE FROM HEAD TO TOES AND INSIDE THE NOSE~ YOU CAN SMELL HER FROM A KILOMETRE AWAY~ SHE'S THE PRODUCT OF A MILLION YEN'S WORTH OF MAKEUP!
IN THE MEANWHILE, AMI ENTERED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNDER THE WORRIED EYES OF HER MOTHER AND BROTHER. SHE WAS NOW IN THE 4TH GRADE BUT STILL CONTINUED TO BE BULLIED BY HER PEERS.

ONCE SHE STARTS CRYIN'!
AND IT COMES RUNNING DOWN LIKE WATERCOLOR PAINT,
PLEASE STOP CHASING ME.
YEAH! THAT'S ENOUGH!
SCRAM!


YOU WERE CALLED AMI, RIGHT..?
W-WHO ARE YOU...?
I GOT A LIL' FAVOUR I WANNA ASK FROM YOU. NOTHIN' TOO HARD.
YOU'LL FIRST HAVE TO SNEAK INTO THE TEACHER'S STAFFROOM AT MY MIDDLE SCHOOL.

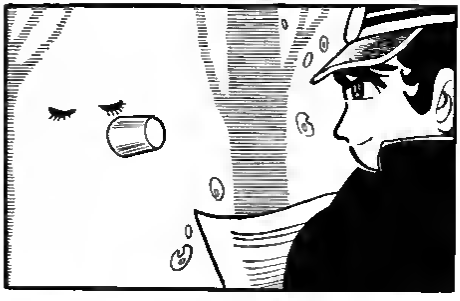
HEY, C'MON DON'T BE LIKE THAT. THIS SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR YOU IF YOU WIPE YOUR MAKEUP OFF AND TURN INVISIBLE.
WELL THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME! YOU'RE A BOY FROM THE SHOOL NEAR HERE, AREN'T YOU?
I WANT YOU TO STEAL- I MEAN, LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT ONE.
THERE'LL BE A STACK OF ANSWER KEYS ON THE 3RD TABLE FROM THE LEFT.
LOOK, I'VE GOT A TEST TOMORROW AND I'D LIKE SOMETHING TO USE FOR REFERENCE MATERIAL, CAPICHE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ..?
WHAT!?
NO, STOP!
YOUR BODY-
THAT'S RIGHT, I KNOW.


CURIOUS HOW I KNOW? HEH HEH.
CAN TURN INVISIBLE ONCE YOU WASH YOUR MAKEUP OFF.
CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN BUT I ONCE SAW YOU IN THE RAIN UNDERNEATH A TREE APPLYING MAKEUP. YOU GAVE ME QUITE THE SHOCK WHEN I PEEPED AT YOUR REAL FACE.
OKAY?
SO JUST HELP ME OUT ONE TIME,
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TELL NOBODY.

DON'T LOOK THIS WAY!
SO YOU'LL DO IT?
NAME'S DELIN-QUENT GEN BY THE WAY.
YEAH, YEAH, I WON'T PEEP.
LET'S BE FRIENDS.
NO!

DID SHE RUN AWAY?
HM?

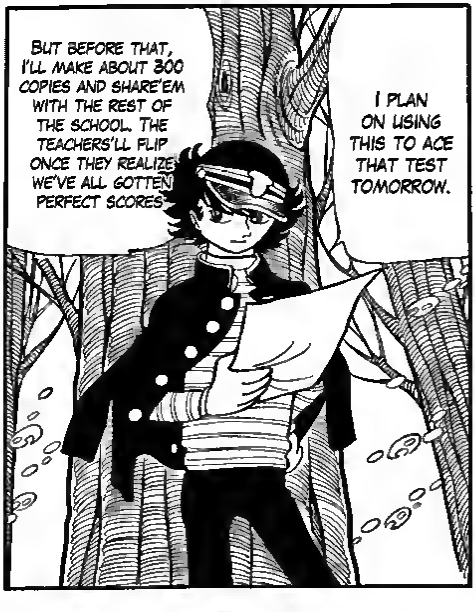
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO IF SOMEONE FINDS OUT?
THANKS, THIS IS JUST WHAT I ASKED FOR.
MUST'VE BEEN COLD GOING OUT NAKED, RIGHT?



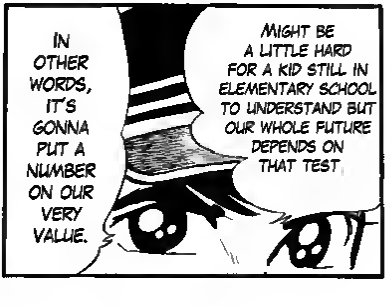
HAVE A DRINK. I MADE IT SPECIALLY FOR YOU NICE HOT BLACK TEA.

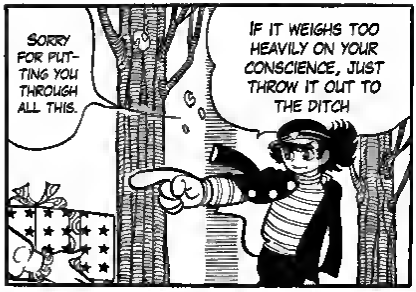
WHY'RE YOU DOING ALL THIS?

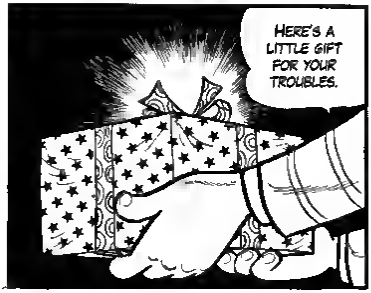
BECAUSE THAT TEST IS MESSED UP. IT AIN'T RIGHT.

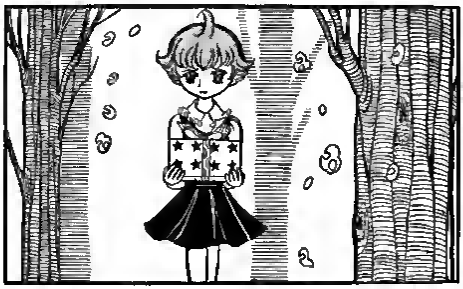

BUT BEFORE THAT, I'LL MAKE ABOUT 300 COPIES AND SHARE'EM WITH THE REST OF THE SCHOOL. THE TEACHERS'LL FLIP ONCE THEY REALIZE WE'VE ALL GOTTEN PERFECT SCORES.
I PLAN ON USING THIS TO ACE THAT TEST TOMORROW.

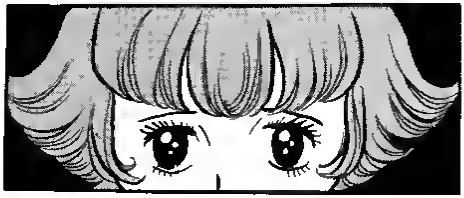
AS IF YOU COULD JUST MEASURE A PERSON WITH A SINGLE TEST. WHAT A JOKE!

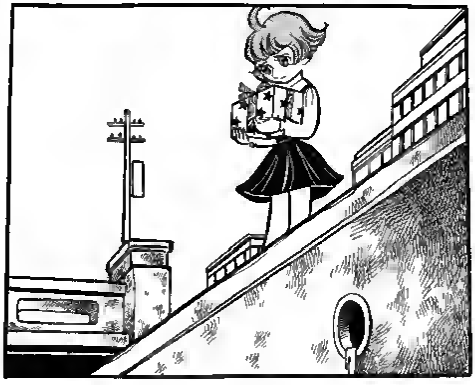

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S GONNA PUT A NUMBER ON OUR VERY VALUE.
MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARD FOR A KID STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO UNDERSTAND BUT OUR WHOLE FUTURE DEPENDS ON THAT TEST.


SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH ALL THIS.
IF IT WEIGHS TOO HEAVILY ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, JUST THROW IT OUT TO THE DITCH

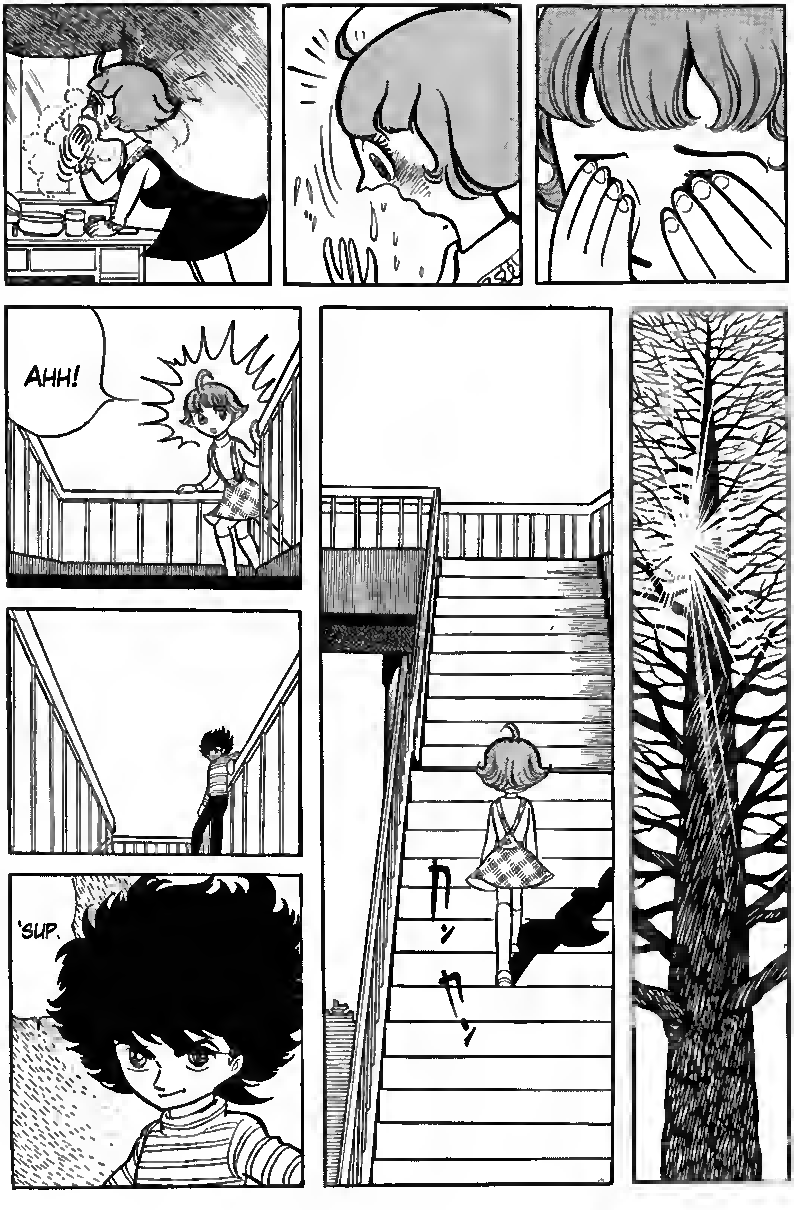

HERE'S A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOUR TROUBLES.







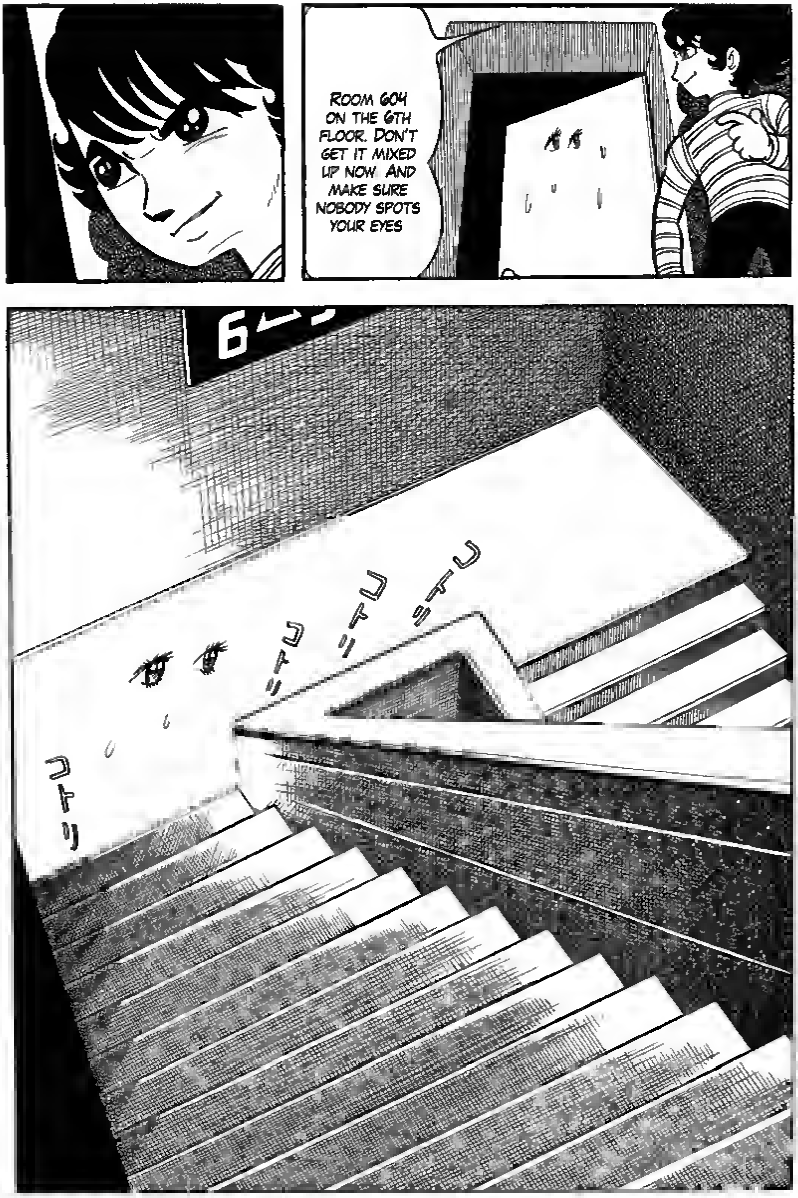
YOU SEEM DOWN IN THE DUMPS DID SOME BOYS TEASE YOU AGAIN?
AMI, WHAT'S WRONG?
NO, IT'S NOTHING.


AHH!
'SLIP.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU EVER AGAIN.
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOUR SECRET TO ANYONE..
BUT I KEPT MY WORD.
SORRY 'BOUT LAST TIME.
NO!
I'M NOT HELPING YOU A 2ND TIME!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
I'M NOT SURPRISED BUT I GOT ONE MORE FAVOUR TO ASK.
COME WITH ME FOR A SEC.
YOU'RE A BAD BOY!
HEH HEH. NO NEED TO HATE ME THAT MUCH.

W-WHERE ARE WE!?
THIS IS THE BACK SIDE OF COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL. TAKE A LOOK AT THE 4TH WINDOW ON THE 6TH FLOOR.
INSIDE THAT ROOM IS THE BILLIONAIRE MRS. HUGHES, WHO'S CURRENTLY VISITING JAPAN
SHE'S FAMOUS FOR ALWAYS GOING OUT COVERED IN JEWELLERY. APPARENTLY, THE PAPERS SAY JUST THE ONES SHE WEARS AT ANY GIVEN TIME COSTS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

WENT MISSING...?
A RICH PERSON LIKE HER PROBABLY WOULDN'T BAT AN EYE IF ONE OF HER JEWELS WENT MISSING.
TO HER, THOSE JEWELS ARE JUST PRETTY FLUFF.
BUT THE MONEY YOU GET FROM SELLING EVEN A SINGLE ONE CAN SAVE HUNDREDS OF SICK PATIENTS
YOU MEAN STEALING!? THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO SOMETHING THAT AWFUL!
CALM DOWN.
PATIENTS? WHAT'S THAT?
I MEAN PEOPLE WHO'VE BECOME VERY SICK 'CAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION
BUT THE FACTORIES RESPONSIBLE WON'T LIFT A FINGER TO HELP. AND TRYIN' TO SUE THEM IS JUST POINTLESS TOO.
SO IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, COMPARED TO WHAT THOSE EVIL GREEDY PEOPLE DO DAILY, STEALING ONE OR TWO JEWELS IS NOTHING ..!


ROOM 604 ON THE 6TH FLOOR. DON'T GET IT MIXED UP NOW AND MAKE SURE NOBODY SPOTS YOUR EYES
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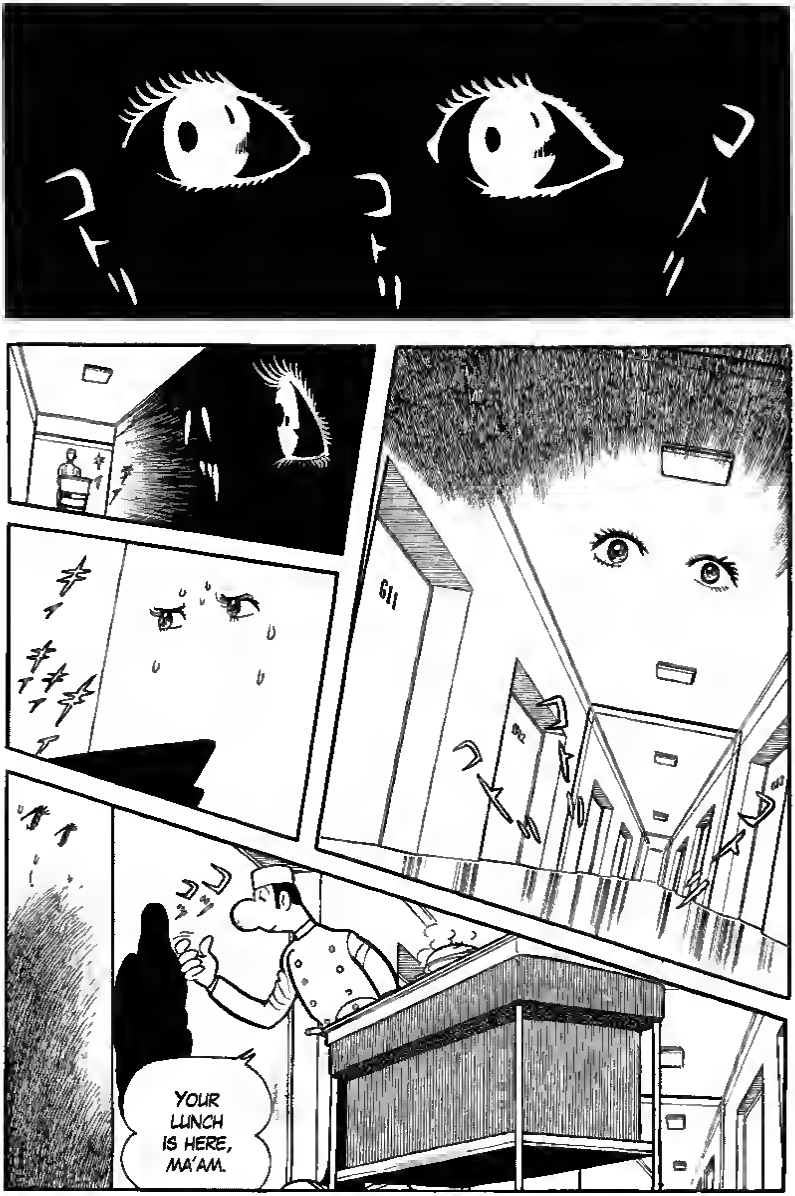
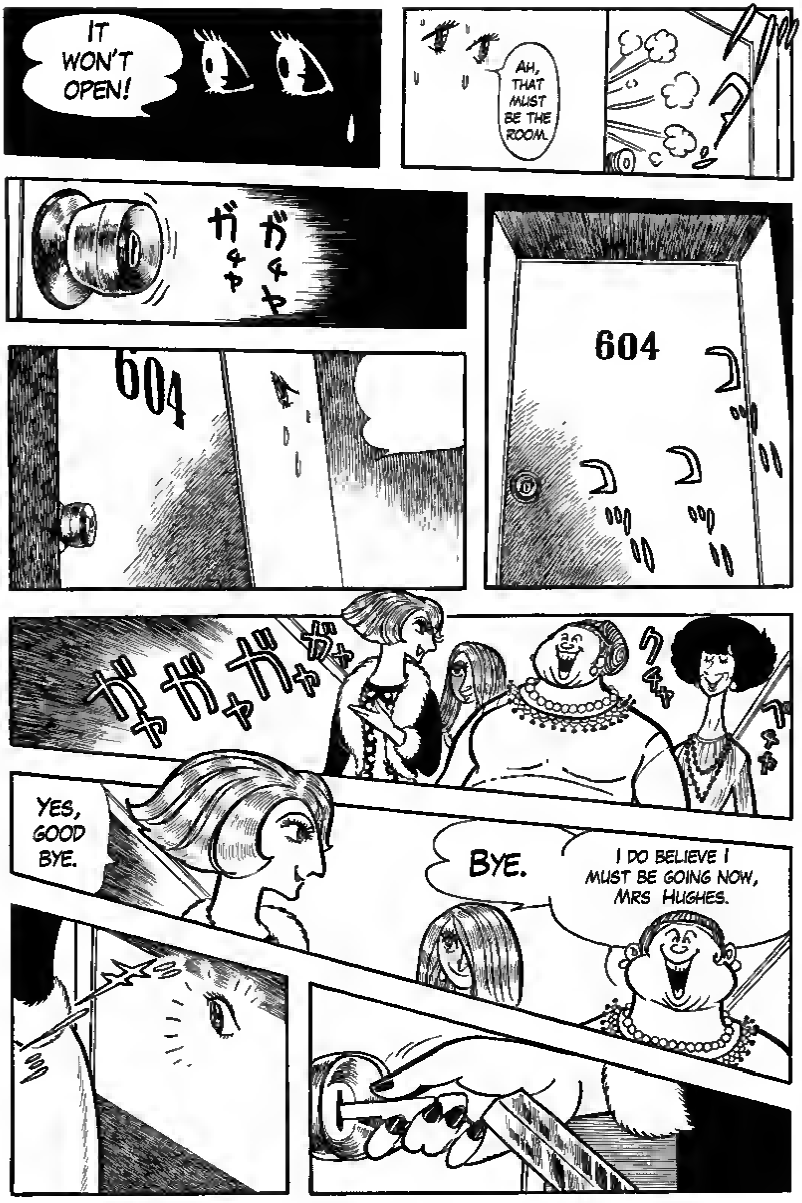

YOUR LUNCH IS HERE, MA'AM.


IT WON'T OPEN!
AH, THAT MUST BE THE ROOM.
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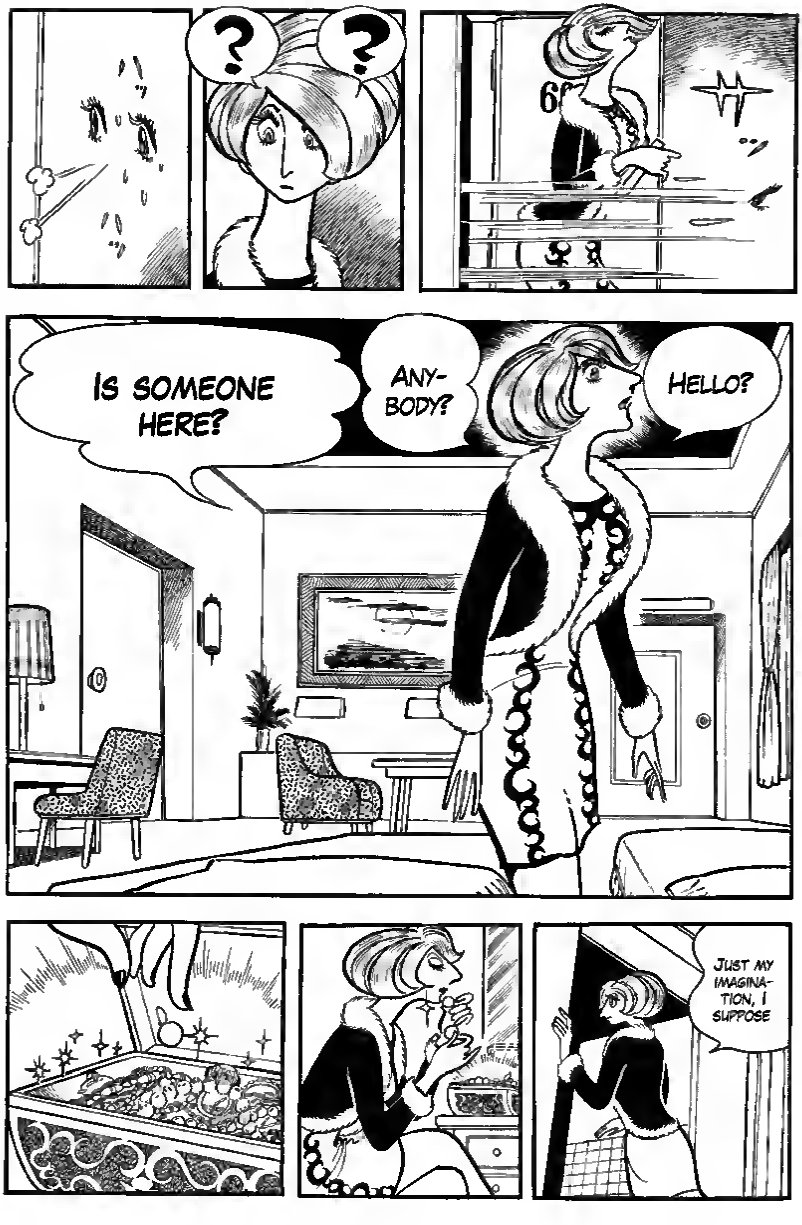
YES, GOOD BYE.
BYE.
I DO BELIEVE I MUST BE GOING NOW, MRS HUGHES.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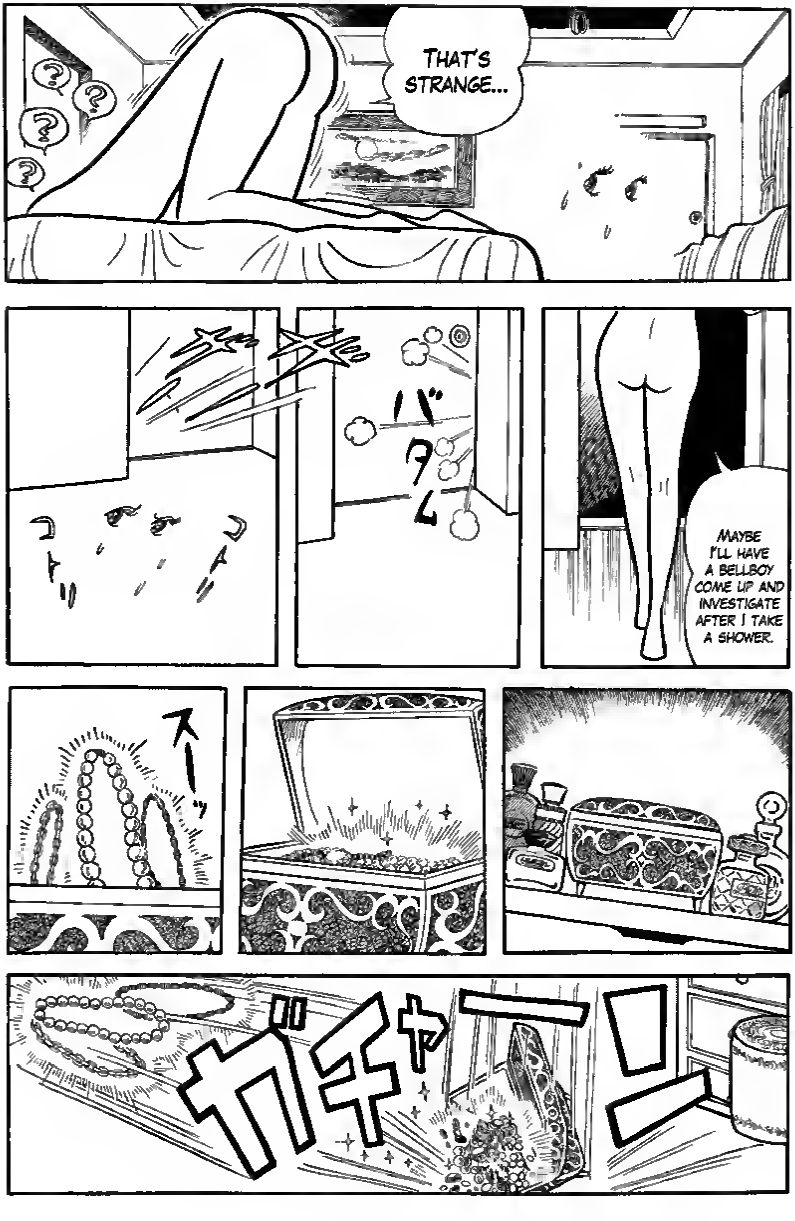
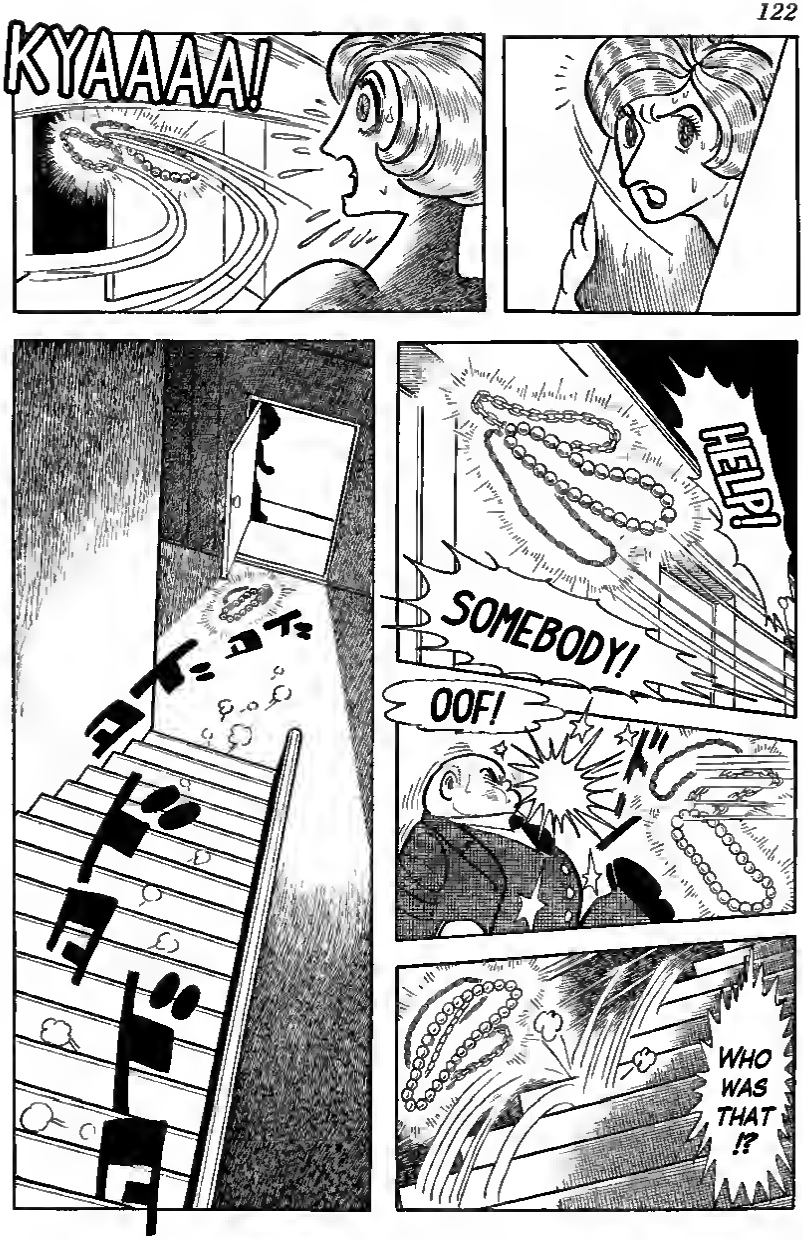
IS SOMEONE HERE?
ANY-BODY?
HELLO?
JUST MY IMAGINA-TION, I SUPPOSE

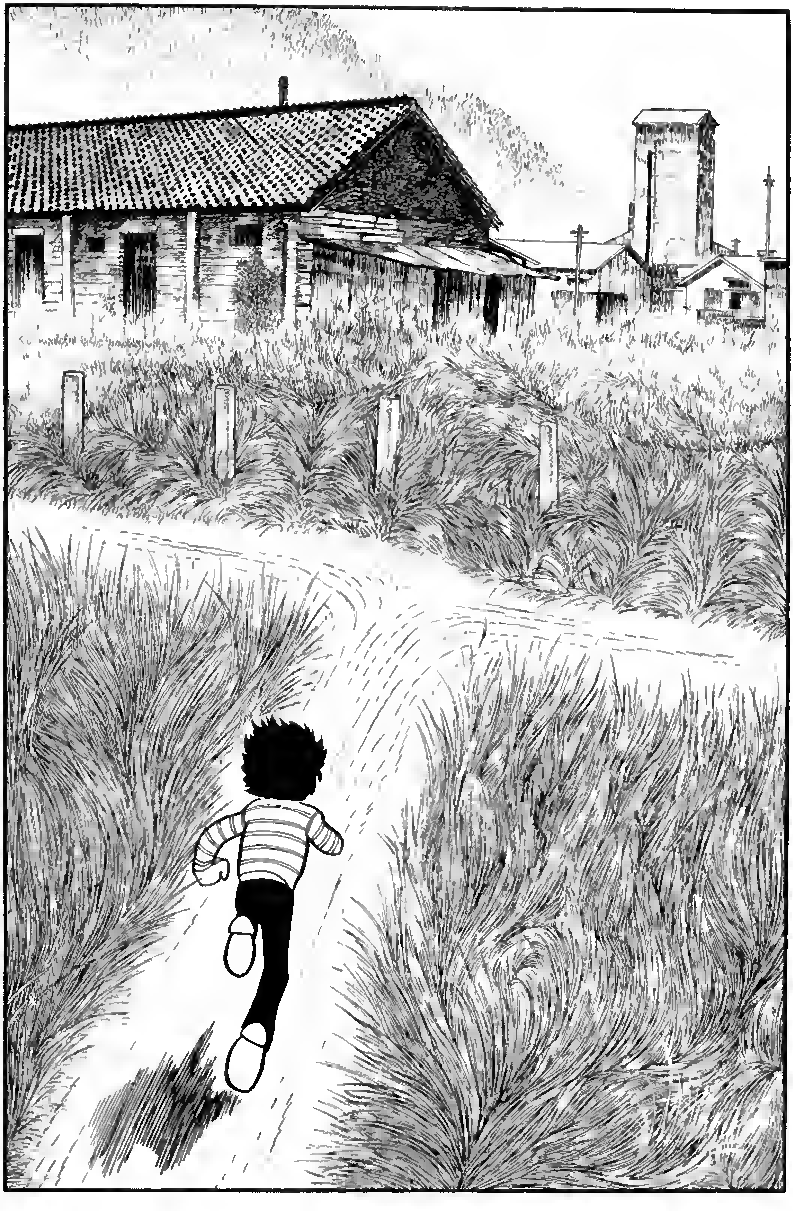
RA-RA-RA
RA-RA-RA
WHA!?

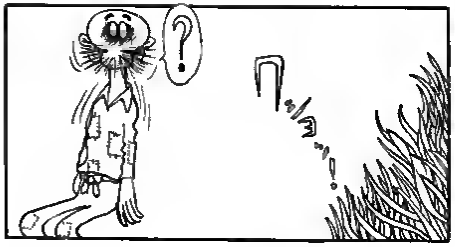

THAT'S STRANGE...
MAYBE I'LL HAVE A BELLBOY COME UP AND INVESTIGATE AFTER I TAKE A SHOWER.
ガチャーン


KYAAAA!
ドコドコドコドコ
HELP!
SOMEBODY!
OOF!
WHO WAS THAT !?

HOW'D IT GO?
HUFF... HUFF...
HERE...
ピシャ ピシャ ピシャ
QUICK! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!
AHH!
WHO TOUCHED ME JUST NOW!?
ヒタ ヒタ ヒタ

LATER THEN!
I OWE YOU ONE.
HURRY!
ALRIGHT, LET'S SPLIT UP FROM HERE. YOU DON'T WANT TO STICK AROUND WITH ME ANY LONGER, RIGHT?
SO GO BACK AND PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD, OK?

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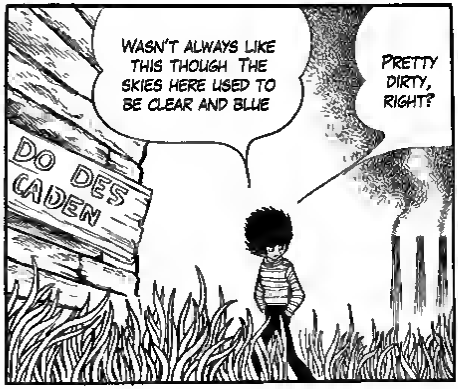
...

WELL DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU DO CATCH A COLD.
OH, SO YOU CAME AFTER ME.


WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS THOUGH THE SKIES HERE USED TO BE CLEAR AND BLUE
PRETTY DIRTY, RIGHT?
DO DES CADEN

NICE WEATHER? HMPH! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING NICE ABOUT THIS WEATHER.
NICE WEATHER, EH, GEN?

GEN... GET ME THE PAPER, WILL YOU...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO READ THE PAPER!

THAT'S A PIGEON COOP UP THERE.
THERE USED TO BE 50 PIGEONS LIVING THERE... BUT BY LAST YEAR, NOT A SINGLE ONE WAS AROUND ANYMORE.

IF I SELL THIS, I CAN GET THE MONEY TO CURE DAD AND EVERYONE ELSE!

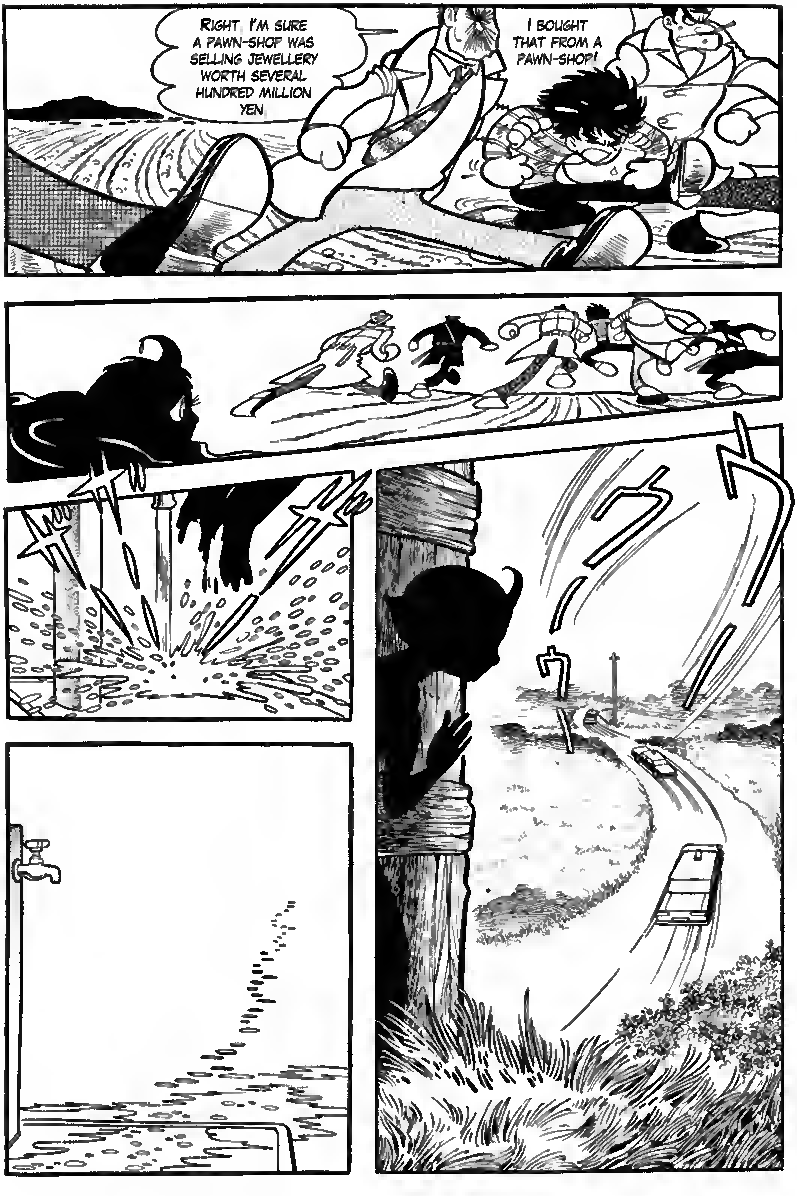
THOSE ARE HOW FAMILIES HERE MARK HOMES WITH SICK PEOPLE
WHAT'RE THOSE X-MARKED FLAGS?
GEN!
QUICK! HIDE!
SO THIS IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO TO SHOVE THE TRUTH DOWN THEIR THROATS.
THE FACTORY PEOPLE PRETEND THERE AREN'T ANY SICK PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN,
LET ME ASK YOU...
EVERY DAY, ONE MORE HOME PUTS UP A X-FLAG.
THE PAPERS SAY SOME FOREIGNER HAD HER JEWELS STOLEN AND THEY MANAGED TO TAKE THIS PICTURE...
DID YOU EVER GO TO COSMO-WHATITSNAME HOTEL?

HAHA, THERE'S NO WAY I'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT NOW!
IT SORTA LOOKS LIKE YOU SO I WAS WONDERIN'...
APPARENTLY, SOME GUY STANDING BY THE WINDOW JUST HAPPENED TO TAKE A PICTURE OF A BOY SUSPICIOUSLY RUNNING AWAY FROM THE BACK ENTRANCE OF THE HOTEL.
YEAH, I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO WAY A FANCY HOTEL LIKE THAT WOULD EVEN LET A KID LIKE YOU INSIDE.
バタン
THE POLICE FOUND OUT!
AMI!

GEN, WHERE'RE YA GOIN'?
GEN!
AHH!
RUN THIS WAY!
OH NO!

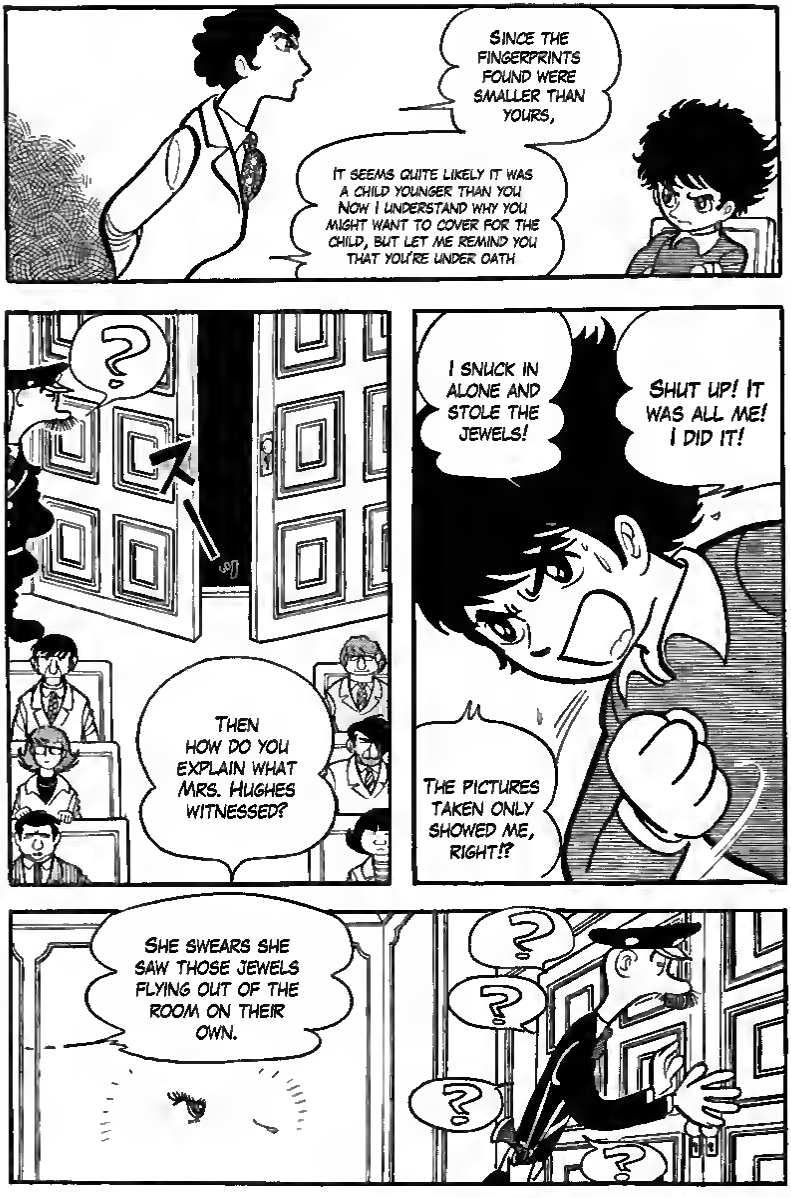
LIE IN THE MUD!
GET DOWN!
WE'RE PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST, PUNK.

HA... WHAT'S THE DEAL, OFFICERS? I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING BAD THAT'D GET ME ARRESTED...
SAVE IT FOR THE POLICE STATION. WE'RE TAKING YOU IN FOR QUESTIONING.
CHIEF! WE FOUND THE STOLEN JEWELS!
THEY WERE INSIDE THIS BOX IN THE KID'S HOUSE.
SOOO... YOU STILL GONNA SAY YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BAD, KID?
UGH


RIGHT. I'M SURE A PAWN-SHOP WAS SELLING JEWELLERY WORTH SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION YEN
I BOUGHT THAT FROM A PAWN-SHOP!

REALLY !?
WELL OF COURSE WHY'RE YOU SO SURPRISED?
YES, HIS NAME IS YAMAGATA GENYA.
MOM... ARE YOU GOING TO BE PROSECUTING THE BOY JEWEL-THIEF? HE'S ALL OVER THE PAPERS...
YES. STEALING IS A CRIME NO MATTER WHAT.
HE'S GUILTY, RIGHT?
HOW EXACTLY HE STOLE THE JEWELS HE WON'T OPEN HIS MOUTH AT ALL ABOUT IT
BUT THE TROUBLING MATTER IS.

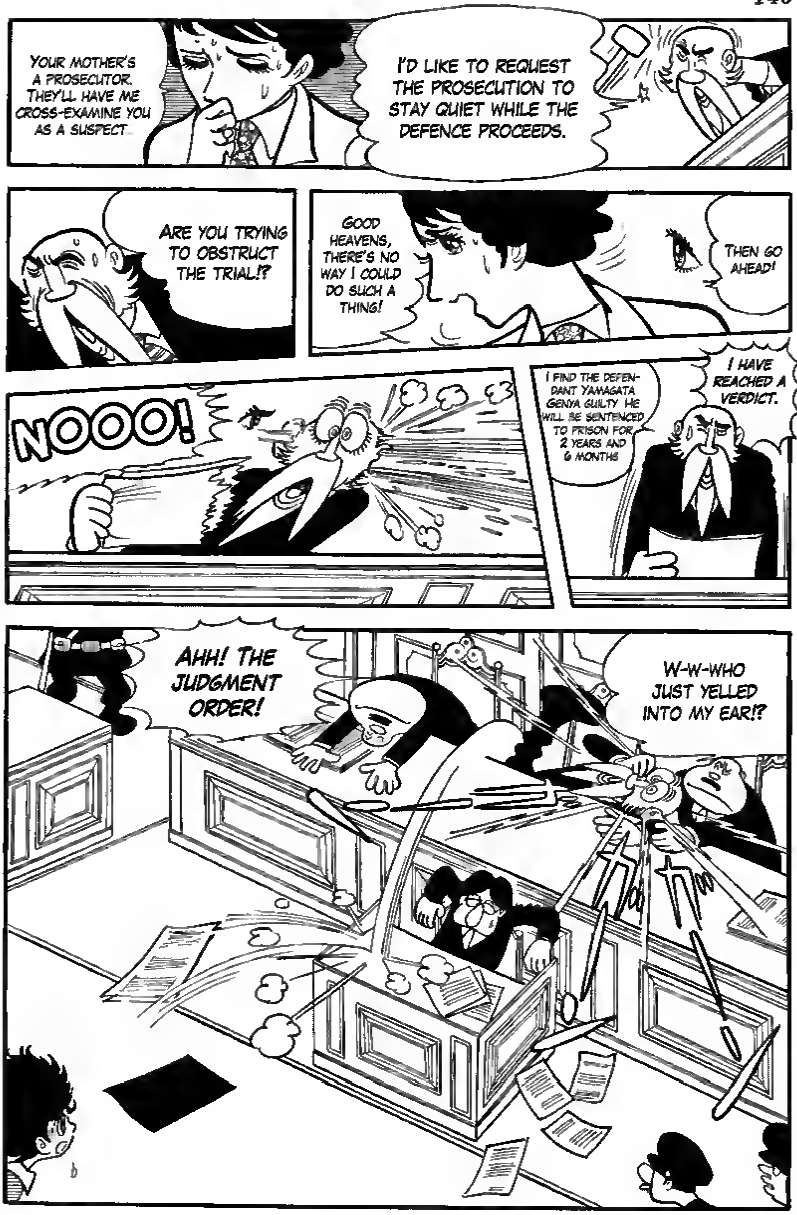
.....
IF YOU DON'T TELL US HIS NAME, YOU'LL GET A HEAVIER SENTENCE
LOOK, WE KNOW YOU'VE GOT AN ACCOMPLICE
I STOLE THE JEWELS ALL ALONE...
WHO WAS IT!?
THE FINGERPRINT AND FOOTPRINTS FOUND AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME DID NOT MATCH UP WITH YOURS...
YAMAGATA, YOU NEVER ACTUALLY WENT INSIDE THE HOTEL, DID YOU?
SO WHO WAS IT? TELL US THE TRUTH.


SINCE THE FINGERPRINTS FOUND WERE SMALLER THAN YOURS,
IT SEEMS QUITE LIKELY IT WAS A CHILD YOUNGER THAN YOU. NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MIGHT WANT TO COVER FOR THE CHILD, BUT LET ME REMIND YOU THAT YOU'RE UNDER OATH
?
スー
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN WHAT MRS. HUGHES WITNESSED?
I SNUCK IN ALONE AND STOLE THE JEWELS!
SHUT UP! IT WAS ALL ME! I DID IT!
THE PICTURES TAKEN ONLY SHOWED ME, RIGHT!?
SHE SWEARS SHE SAW THOSE JEWELS FLYING OUT OF THE ROOM ON THEIR OWN.
?
?
?
?

AND WHEN I STARTED RUNNING, IT MUST'VE LOOKED LIKE THE JEWELS WERE FLYING TO HER!
I TOLD YOU ALREADY! I HAD A PIECE OF STRING TIED TO THOSE JEWELS!
WHAT'RE YOU-
AMI!
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THEN SOMEBODY WOULD'VE WITNESSED YOU RUNNING DOWN THE HOTEL'S CORRIDORS! BUT AS IT STANDS, THERE WERE NO WITNESSES WHO-

W-WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, DEAR...
MOMMY, PLEASE DON'T PUNISH HIM TOO MUCH...
AHH!
AMI...!
DON'T TELL ME...
IT WAS ME WHO TOOK THE JEWELS...
YES...
WHY... WHY...
AHHH!

MIGHT I ASK WHY THE PROSECUTOR IS MUMBLING TO HERSELF!?
IS YOUR CROSS-EXAMINATION OVER OR NOT!?
THE...
AHH...
PROSECUTION RESTS, YOUR HONOUR
AMI, WHY... WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU HELP THAT BOY...?
I DIDN'T RAISE YOU SO THAT YOU COULD USE YOUR BODY TO COMMIT CRIMES...!
IF PEOPLE FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, THEY'LL...
MOMMY...
THEN PLEASE TAKE A SEAT.
NEXT IS THE DEFENCE'S TURN...!


YOUR MOTHER'S A PROSECUTOR. THEY'LL HAVE ME CROSS-EXAMINE YOU AS A SUSPECT.
I'D LIKE TO REQUEST THE PROSECUTION TO STAY QUIET WHILE THE DEFENCE PROCEEDS.
ARE YOU TRYING TO OBSTRUCT THE TRIAL!?
GOOD HEAVENS, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO SUCH A THING!
THEN GO AHEAD!
NOOO!
I FIND THE DEFENDANT YAMAGATA GENYA GUILTY. HE WILL BE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 2 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS
I HAVE REACHED A VERDICT.
AHH! THE JUDGMENT ORDER!
W-W-WHO JUST YELLED INTO MY EAR!?

GEN, I PROMISE I'LL SAVE YOU SO JUST WAIT!
MOMMY'S A COWARD! I HATE YOU!
GET HER A GLASS OF WATER!
SHE'S FAINTED!
W-WHAT JUST HAPPENED!? PROSECUTOR OZAWA!?
I.. I'M FINE.. PLEASE JUST.. END THE TRIAL AND LET.. ME RETURN HOME..
AHH!

MY NAME IS ALA-BASTER.
AMI... NO NEED TO BE AFRAID. I BEEN WAITIN' FOR YOU... I WATCHED THAT TRIAL JUST NOW.
AMI... YOU WANT TO SAVE THAT BOY, DON' YOU?
THEN COME WIT' ME.
I CAN SHOW YOU HOW.
WHAT!?

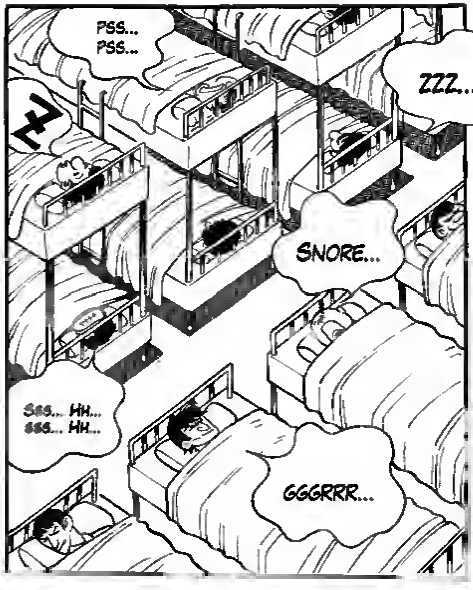
So come quickly wit' me to my car!
No time to talk right now. The trial's almost over an' there'll be a big crowd out here anytime now.
H-how do you... know about me?
Where are we going?
Don' be scared. I'm on your side. In fact, I been watchin' over you for a looong time.
In short, think of me like your guardian or parent.

'CAUSE I KNEW... I KNEW THAT ONE DAY YOU'D COME TO ME.
I COULDA TAKEN YOU AWAY OR COME TALK TO YOU ANYTIME BUT I DIDN'T. I HELD MYSELF OFF FROM DOIN' SO.
ARE YOU MY REAL DADDY...?
WHO... WHO ARE YOU EX-ACTLY...?
THE REASON FOR THAT...
BUT I DON' MIND BECOMIN' YOUR DAD.
NOT QUITE...
BUT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY PAIN.
ACTUALLY, IT'S WORSE! MY BODY'S ONLY HALF-INVISBLE, YOU SEE.
HAS SUFFERED THE SAME PAIN YOURS HAS.
MY BODY TOO,
I ENVY YOU!
BUT YOU... YOU'RE INVIS-IBLE THROUGH AND THROUGH
BUT A MISHAP PLACED ME NEITHER VISIBLE NOR INVISIBLE.
I WAS S'POSED TO BE INVISIBLE TOO,
HALF-INVISIBLE...!?

UMM... ACTUALLY, SHE SUDDENLY TOOK OFF WITHOUT HER CLOTHES AND STILL HASN'T COME BACK.
DID... AMI COME BACK?
WELCOME BACK, MOM. WHAT'S WRONG, YOU LOOK SICK.
I SHO-ULD'VE EXPECTED AS MUCH...
W-WHAT!?
WHY DID SHE DO SUCH AT THING!?
YAMAGATA MUST'VE ROPED HER INTO IT!
KANIHEI... AMI IS...
YOUR BROTHER WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU...
PLEASE COME BACK SOON.

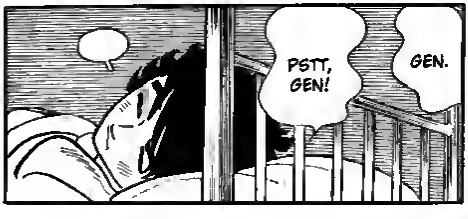
WHILE KANIHEI GAZED AT THE STARRY SKY, MRS. OZAWA CONTINUED TO WAIT FOR AMI DOWNSTAIRS. BUT SHE DID NOT RETURN THE NEXT MORNING, OR THE MORNING AFTER THAT, OR EVEN THE MORNING AFTER THAT...

Chapter 4:
Kigan Castle


PSS...
PSS...
ZZZ...
SNORE...
SSS... HH...
SSS... HH...
GGGRRR...

少年鑑別所

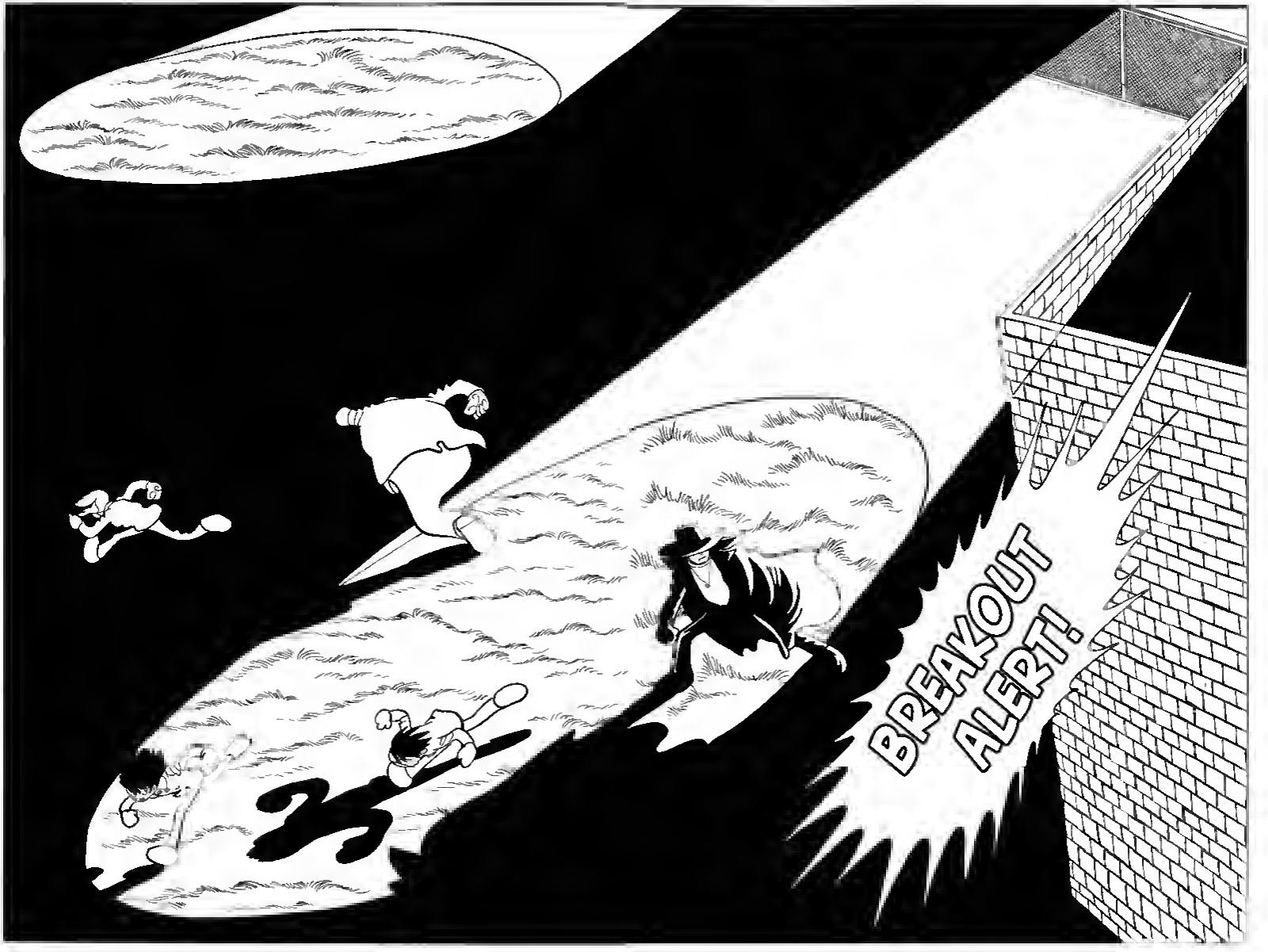
KKKKS...
RUGHH...
ZZZ...
MNNNRM...

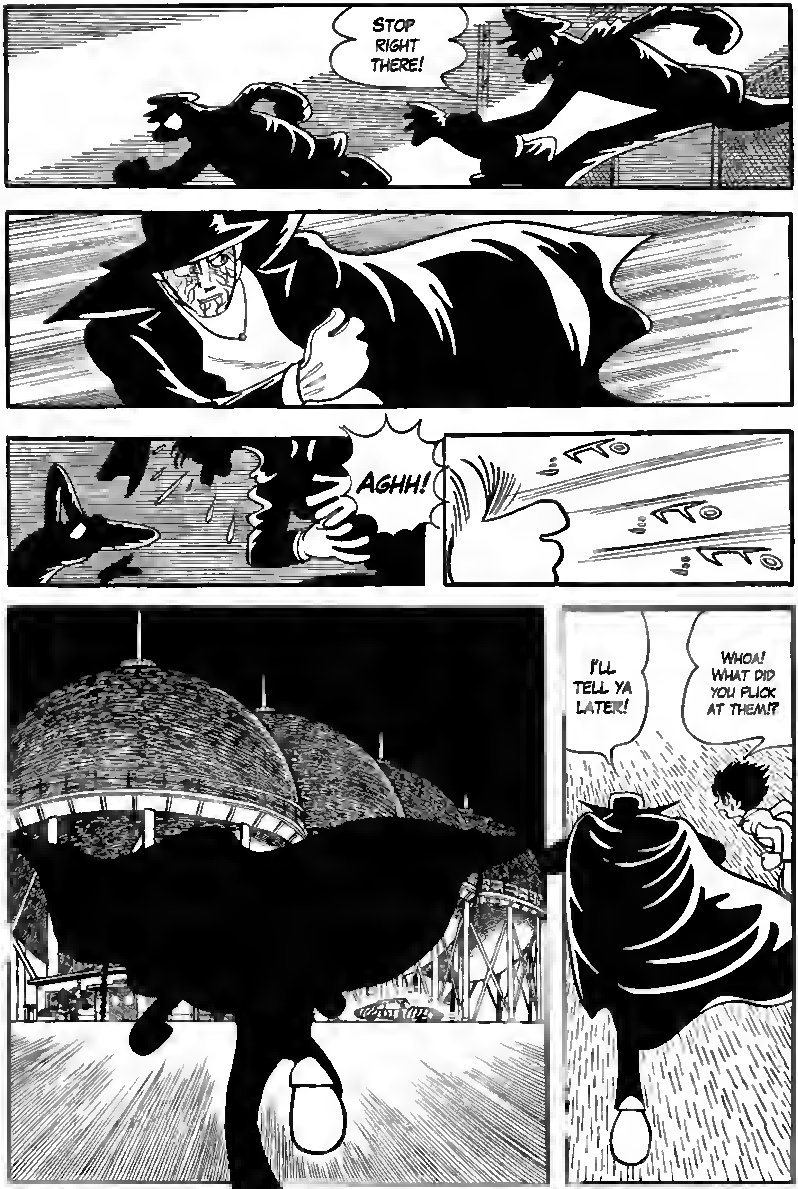

PSTT,
GEN!
GEN.

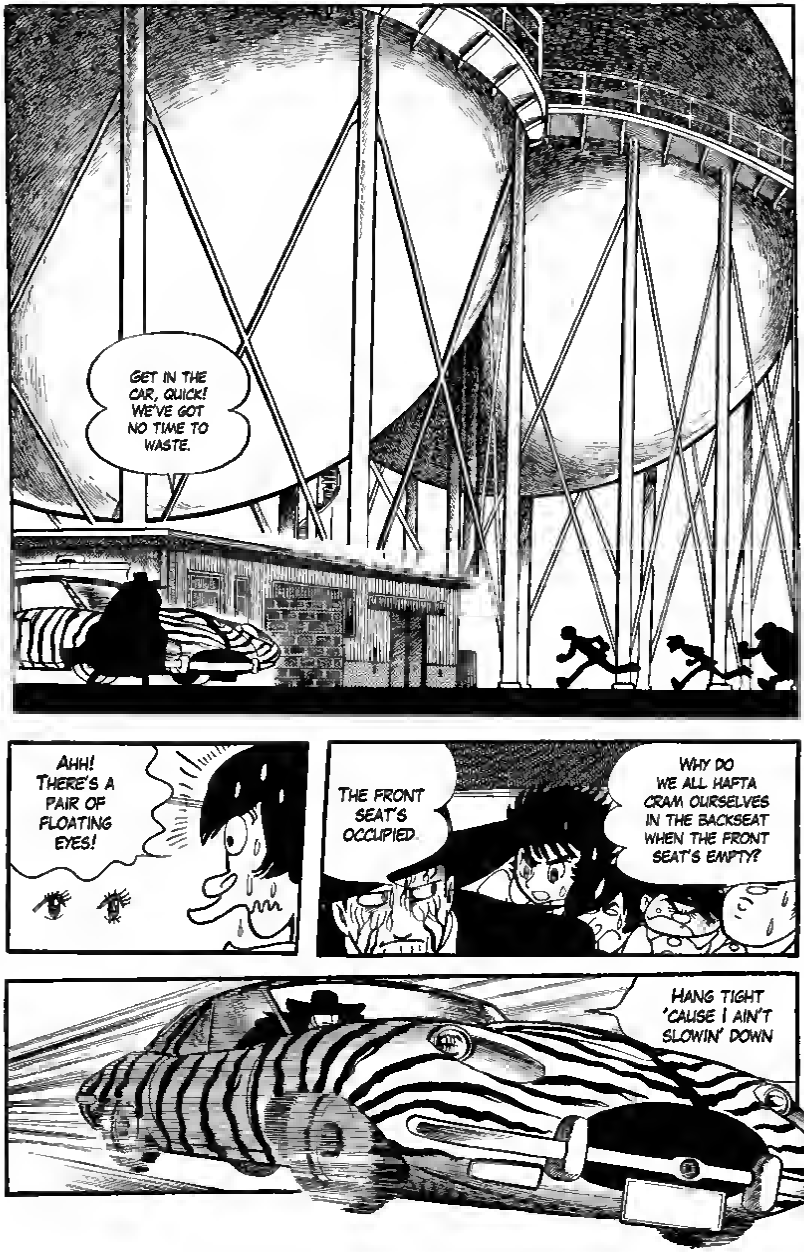
AMI!
I'VE COME TO BREAK YOU OUT!
IT'S ME, AMI!
AMI, DID... DID YOU COME UP WITH THIS PLAN?
THE GUARDS FOR THIS ROOM ARE ALL DEEP ASLEEP SINCE I SPIKED THEIR TEA WITH SLEEPING PILLS. THEY WON'T WAKE UP UNTIL LATE TOMORROW MORNING.
HOLD ON A SEC. I WANT TO BRING A FEW OTHER GUYS ALONG TOO.
BUT WE HAVE TO HURRY!
NO, ALABASTER DID. HE'S WAITING FOR US OUTSIDE.
NAP TIME'S OVER!
WE'RE BREAKING OUTTA HERE.
HM?
HEY, WAKE UP!
THIS WAY!
SSH! KEEP QUIET AND LET'S HEAD OUTSIDE.
BREAKING... OUT...? YOU SERIOUS, GEN?

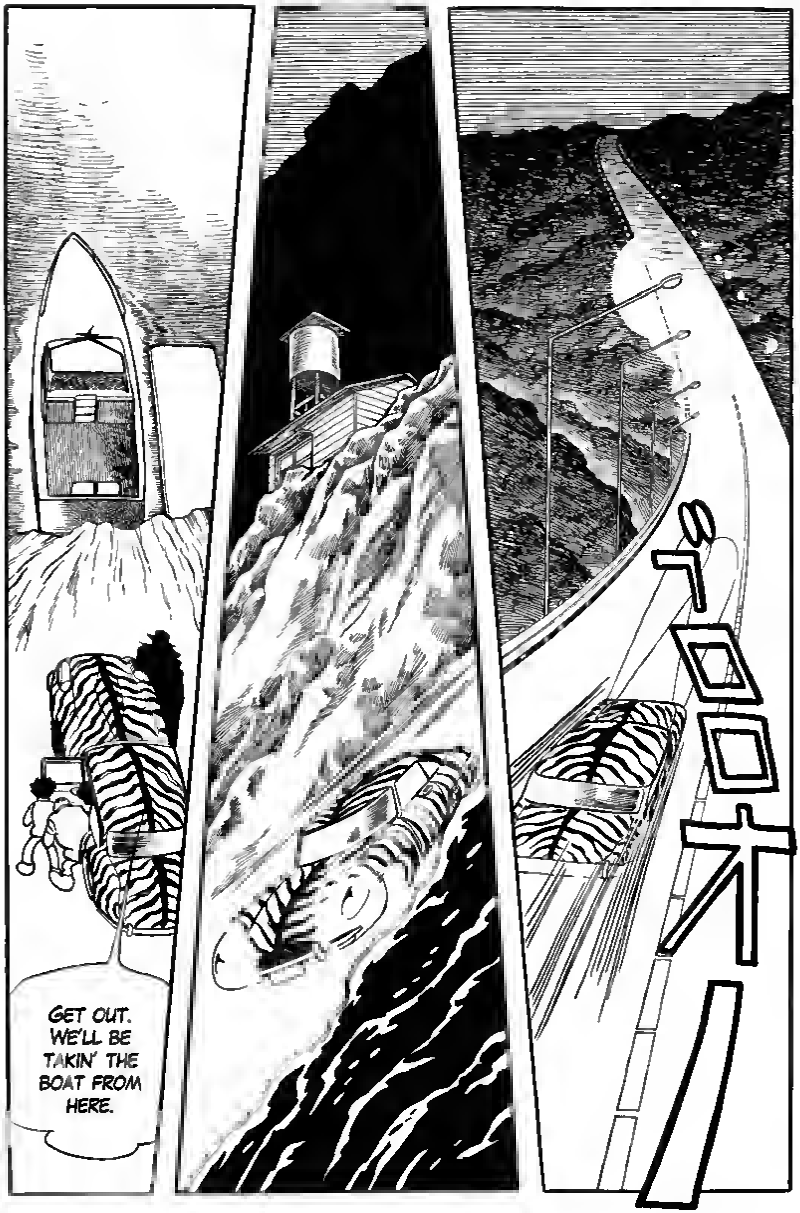
I'VE TORN DOWN THE FENCE NORTH FROM HERE.
SO YOU MANAGED TO BRING HIM.
AGHH!
WHO'S THAT ?!
UGH!
RUN FOR IT!

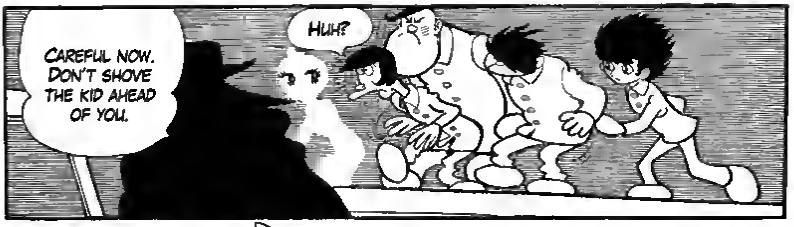
ONCE YOU'RE OUTSIDE THE FENCE, SPLIT UP AND REGROUP 3 HOURS LATER UNDER THE GAS TANK. GOT IT!?

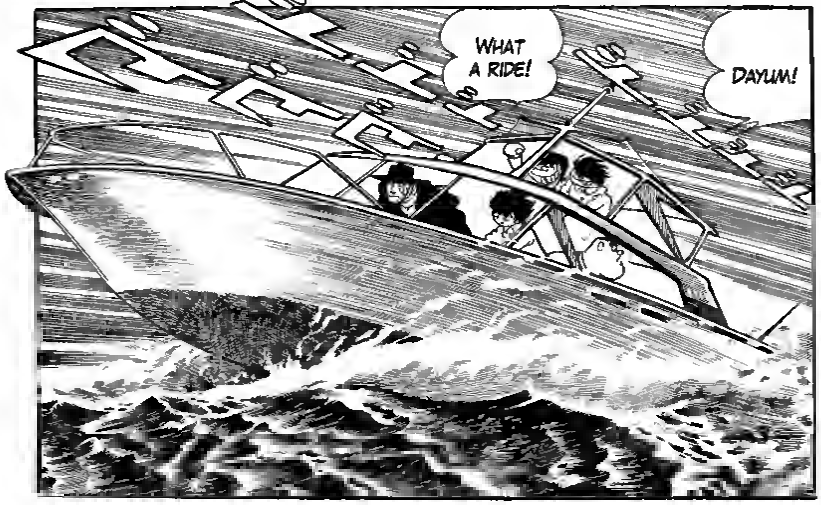

BREAKOUT
ALERT!

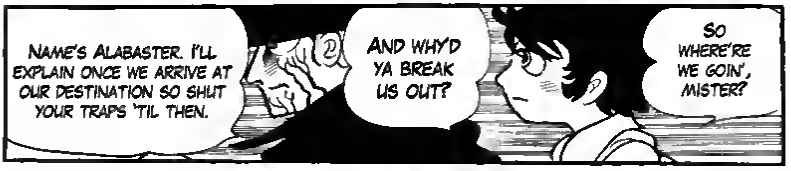

STOP RIGHT THERE!
AGHH!
I'LL TELL YA LATER!
WHOA! WHAT DID YOU FLICK AT THEM!?


GET IN THE CAR, QUICK! WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO WASTE.
AHH! THERE'S A PAIR OF FLOATING EYES!
THE FRONT SEAT'S OCCUPIED.
WHY DO WE ALL HAFTA CRAM OURSELVES IN THE BACKSEAT WHEN THE FRONT SEAT'S EMPTY?
HANG TIGHT 'CAUSE I AIN'T SLOWIN' DOWN

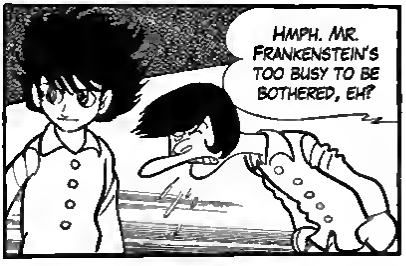

GET OUT. WE'LL BE TAKIN' THE BOAT FROM HERE.

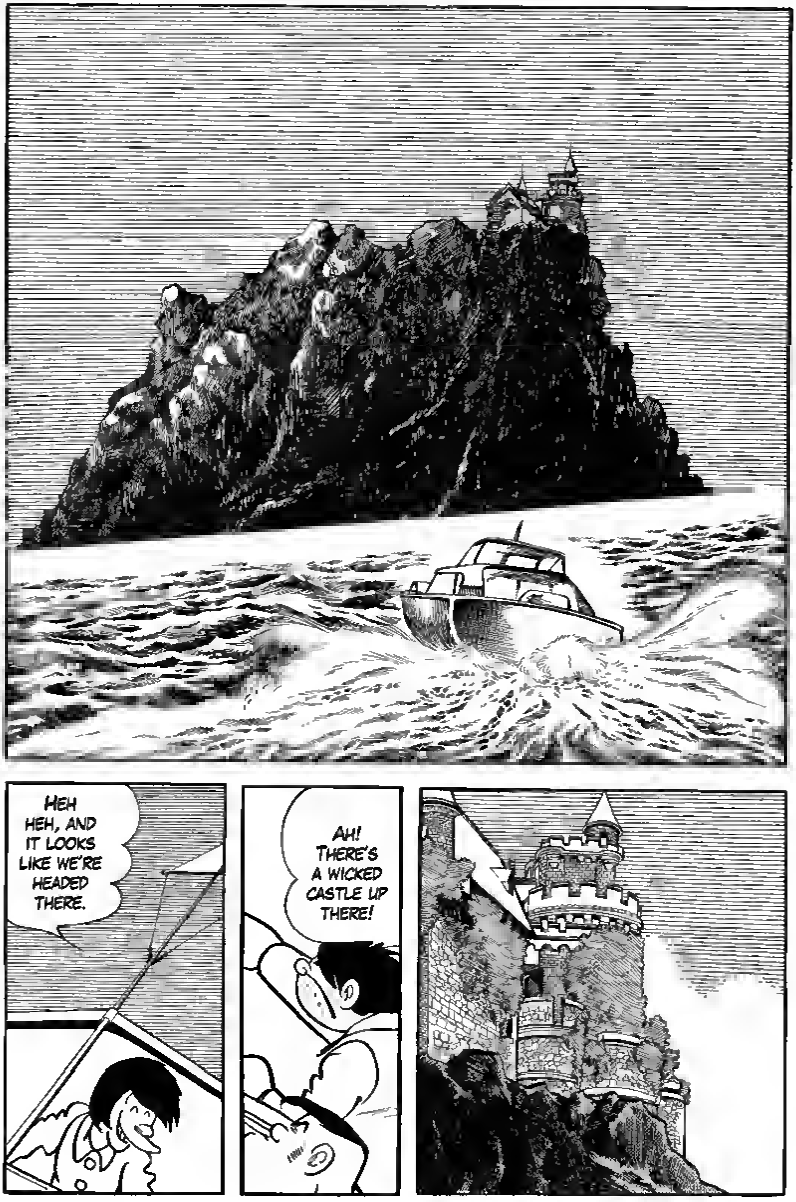

CAREFUL NOW. DON'T SHOVE THE KID AHEAD OF YOU.
HUH?

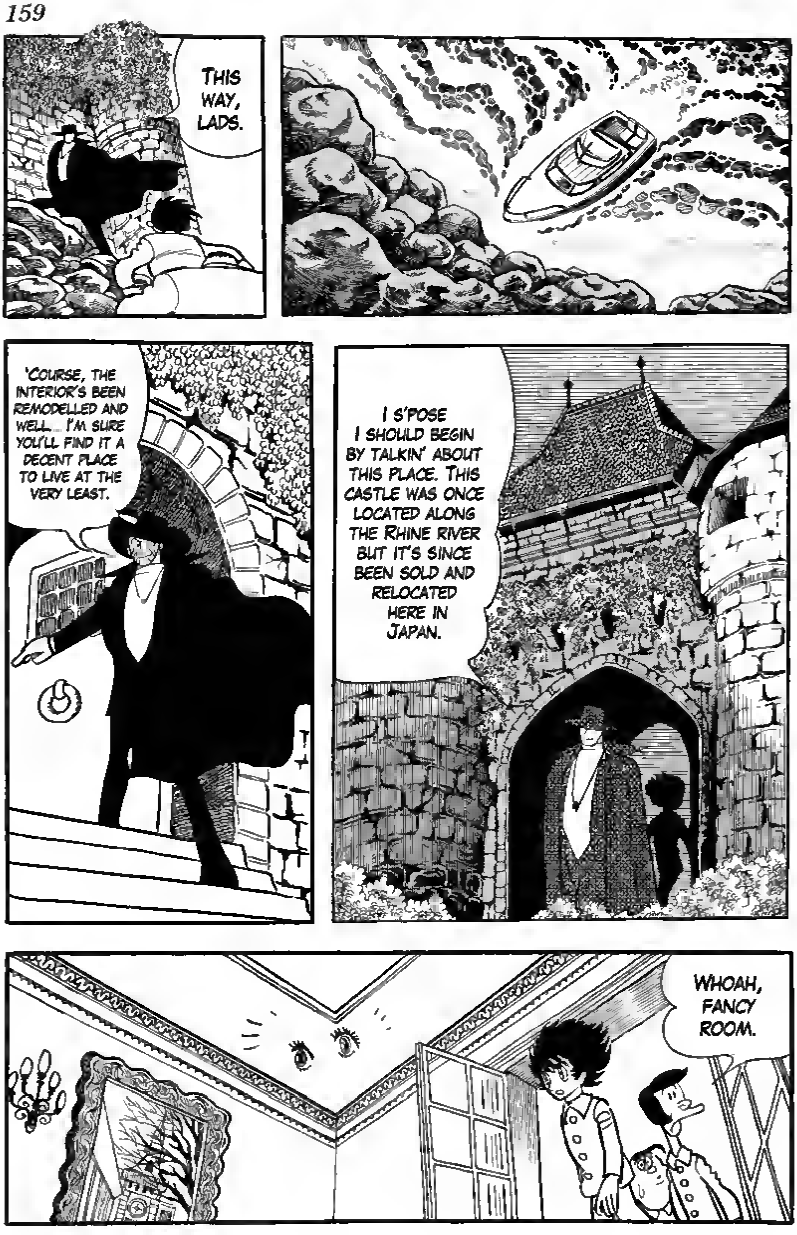

WHAT A RIDE!
DAYUM!


NAME'S ALABASTER. I'LL EXPLAIN ONCE WE ARRIVE AT OUR DESTINATION SO SHUT YOUR TRAPS 'TIL THEN.
AND WHY'D YA BREAK US OUT?
SO WHERE'RE WE GOIN', MISTER?

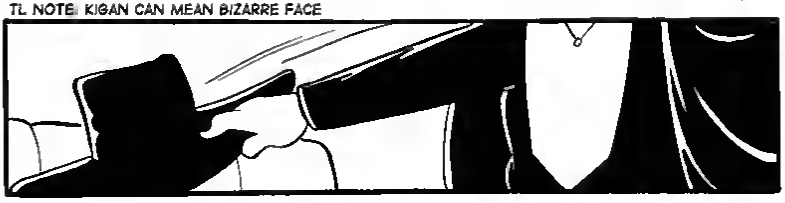
WHAT WAS THAT?

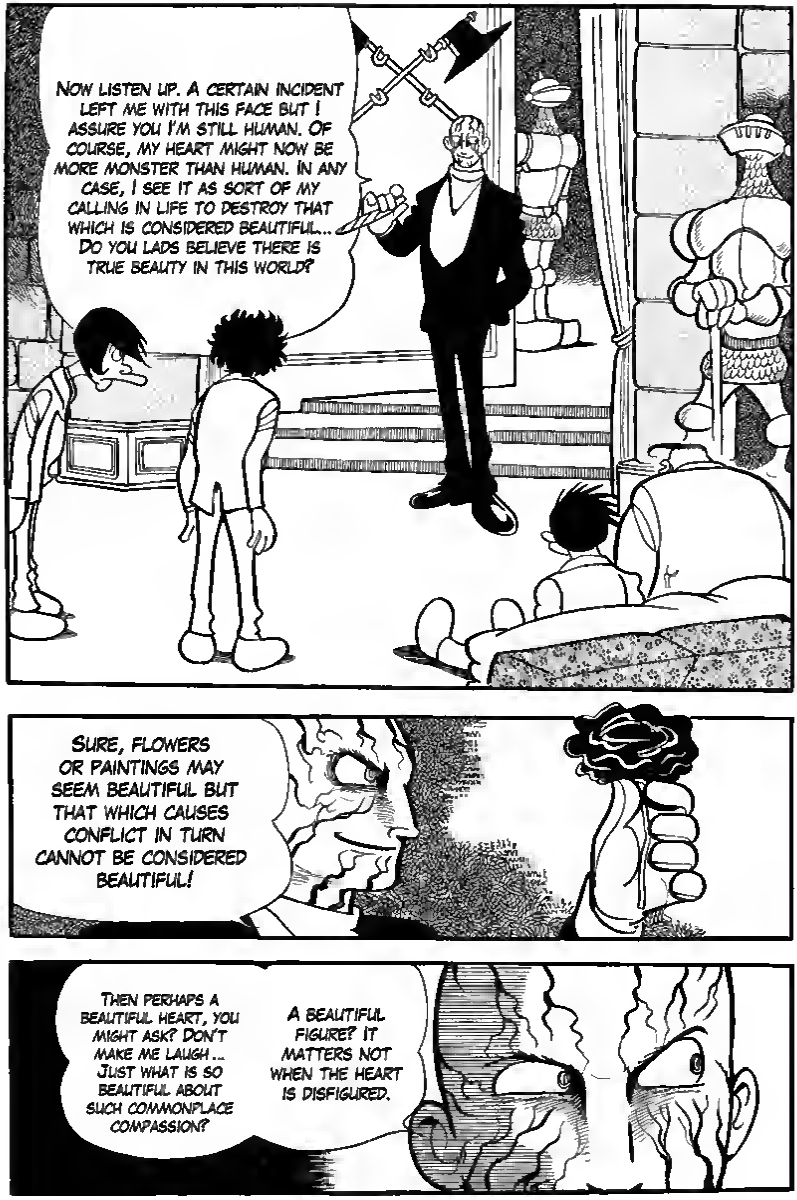

HMPH. MR. FRANKENSTEIN'S TOO BUSY TO BE BOTHERED, EH?


HEH HEH, AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADED THERE.
AH! THERE'S A WICKED CASTLE UP THERE!
HM!


THIS WAY, LADS.
'COURSE, THE INTERIOR'S BEEN REMODELLED AND WELL... I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE AT THE VERY LEAST.
I S'POSE I SHOULD BEGIN BY TALKIN' ABOUT THIS PLACE. THIS CASTLE WAS ONCE LOCATED ALONG THE RHINE RIVER BUT IT'S SINCE BEEN SOLD AND RELOCATED HERE IN JAPAN.
WHOAH, FANCY ROOM.

TL NOTE: KIGAN CAN MEAN BIZARRE FACE




NOW LISTEN UP. A CERTAIN INCIDENT LEFT ME WITH THIS FACE BUT I ASSURE YOU I'M STILL HUMAN. OF COURSE, MY HEART MIGHT NOW BE MORE MONSTER THAN HUMAN. IN ANY CASE, I SEE IT AS SORT OF MY CALLING IN LIFE TO DESTROY THAT WHICH IS CONSIDERED BEAUTIFUL... DO YOU LADS BELIEVE THERE IS TRUE BEAUTY IN THIS WORLD?
SURE, FLOWERS OR PAINTINGS MAY SEEM BEAUTIFUL BUT THAT WHICH CAUSES CONFLICT IN TURN CANNOT BE CONSIDERED BEAUTIFUL!
THEN PERHAPS A BEAUTIFUL HEART, YOU MIGHT ASK? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH... JUST WHAT IS SO BEAUTIFUL ABOUT SUCH COMMONPLACE COMPASSION?
A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE? IT MATTERS NOT WHEN THE HEART IS DISFIGURED.

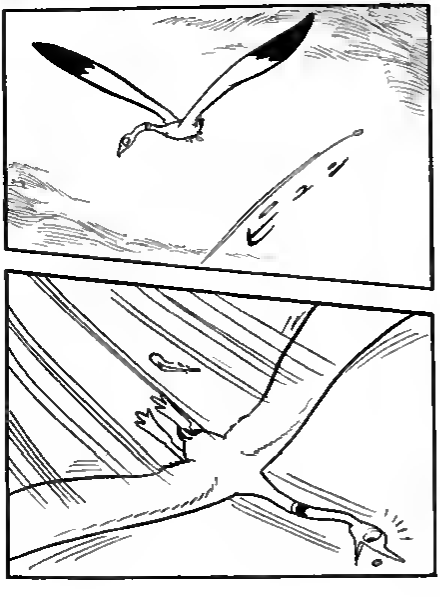
TAKE AMI'S MOTHER FOR EXAMPLE AS A PROSECUTOR, SHE CLAIMS TO BE ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE.
BUT AFTER FINDING OUT THAT HER OWN DAUGHTER HELPED GEN STEAL JEWELS, SHE WAS PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH NOT TELLING ANYBODY, LEST IT HARM HER OWN REPUTATION.
SO YOU SEE, EVEN THOSE WHO CLAIM TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE ONLY FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES IN THE END.
COOL, COOL.
UNLESS I CAN FIND TRUE BEAUTY IN THIS WORLD, I WILL CONTINUE TO RIGHTLY DESPISE IT.
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUTTA TV!

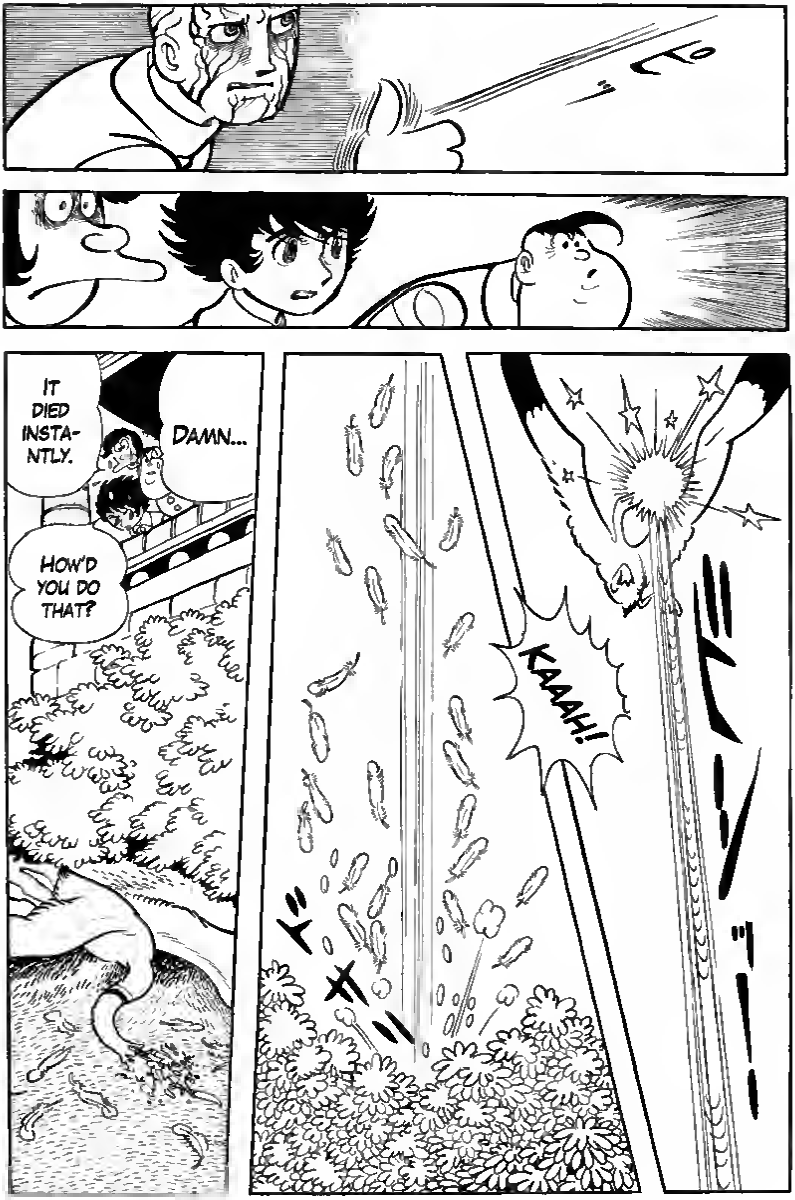
.....
QUIET!
THERE'S NO OTHER MORE APPROPRIATE TO BECOME THE LORD OF KIGAN CASTLE.
YOU WIL BE THE LORD OF THIS CASTLE.
LOOK AT AMI. LOOK HOW PRISTINE AND MAGNIFICENT HER INVISIBLE SELF IS.
IF YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS, THAT IS...
YOU WILL HELP ME OUT
AS FOR THE REST OF YOU...
I'LL DO IT AS LONG AS I GET PAID.
H-HELP YOU WITH WHAT?
WE ACCEPT YOUR OFFER. I'M THE LEADER OF THESE THREE SO THEY'LL DO WHAT I SAY.

AND SO I GIVE YOU THIS TEST.
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHERE YOUR HEARTS LIE.
HM...
IF YOU DO, YOUR FACE WILL BECOME HALF-INVISIBLE LIKE MINE.
AND I WANT YOU TO POUR IT ON YOUR FACE.
INSIDE THESE BOTTLES ARE LIQUIDS,
LISTEN UP, GUYS!
WHAT'S WRONG?
WELL DONE, GEN.
REST ASSURED, THERE WAS ONLY ORDINARY WATER IN THOSE BOTTLES.
NONE OF US ARE GONNA LIVE THE GOODY TWO-SHOE LIFE ANYWAYS! SO FOLLOW MY LEAD!

AH, YES.
ALABASTER! TEACH ME THE SECRET BEHIND YOUR FLICKING TECHNIQUE.

WATCH ME CLOSELY...
YOU CAN FLICK ANYTHIN' FROM A ROCK TO A PEANUT AN' IT'LL WORK JUST FINE.
THIS IS A FIGHTIN' TECHNIQUE I CAME UP WITH.


HERE I GO.
I'LL AIM FOR THAT SEAGULL.

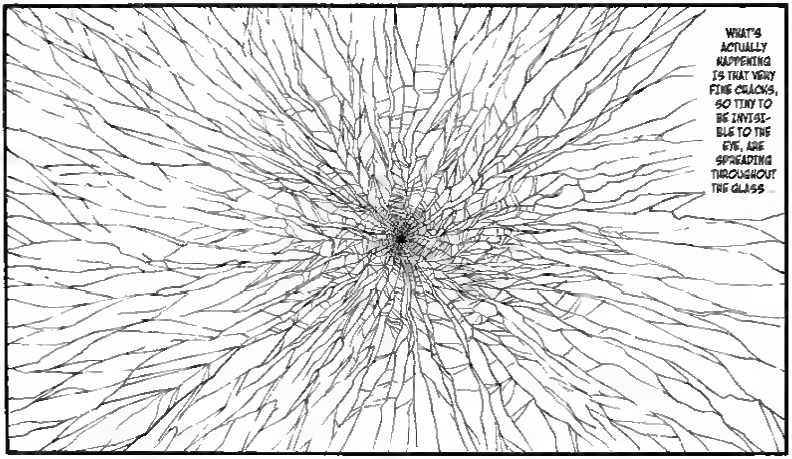

ミレーーーー
KAAAH!
ドカーン
DAMN...
IT DIED INSTA-NTLY.
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

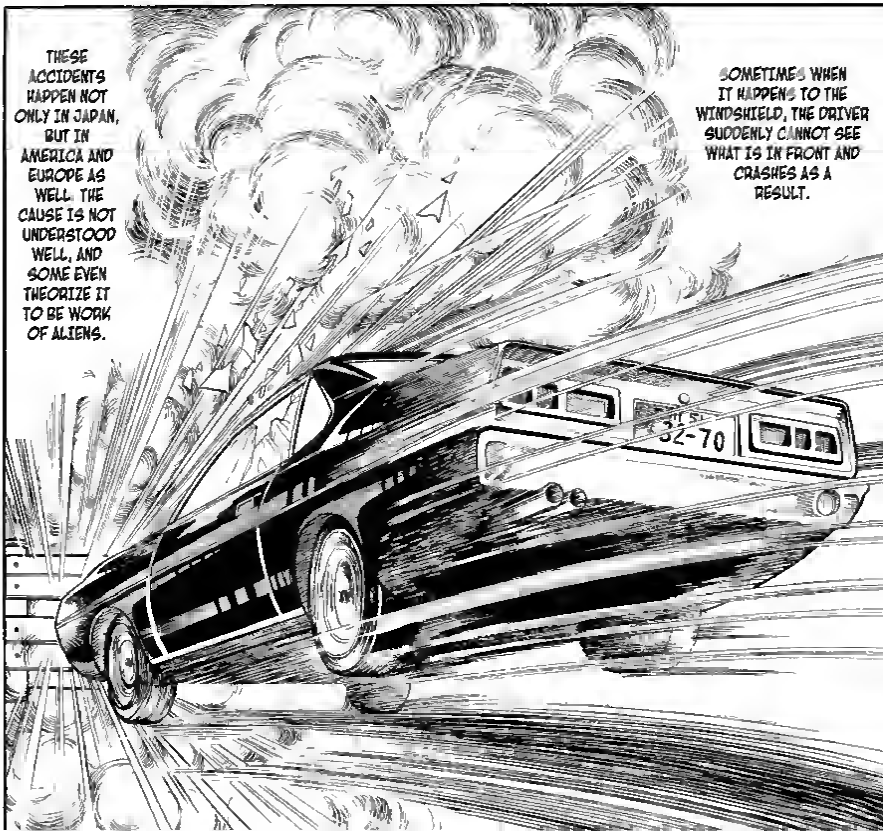
STAND PERFECTLY STILL. YOU'LL GET HURT IF YOU MOVE.
A-ARE YOU GONNA KILL ME?
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS STAND STILL.
YOU THERE. GO STAND OVER THERE.
ACK!
LET ME SHOW YOU ONE MORE TIME. THIS TIME, I'LL NEED ONE O' YOU AS MY TARGET.
HERE I GO.
AGHHH!

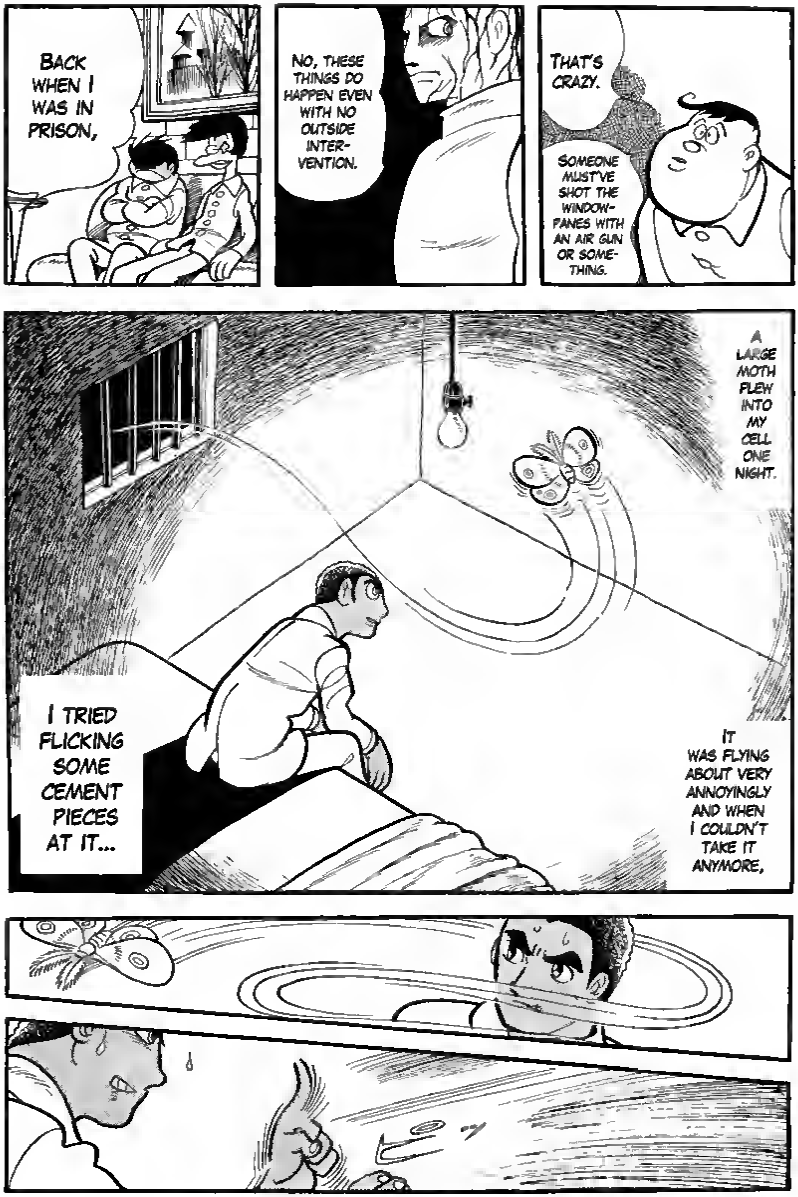
GAHHHH!
AHH!
OHH!

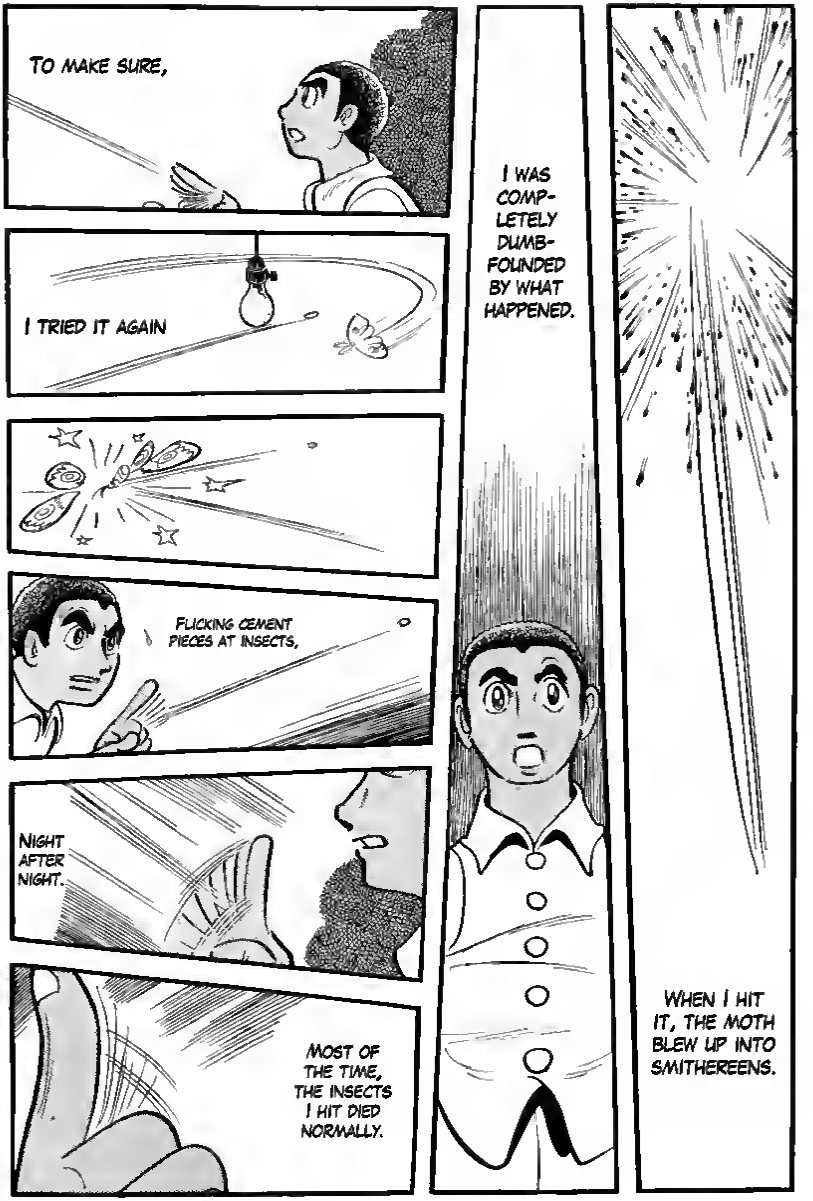
UGHH...
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
THAT REALLY HURT...
HE'S FINE...
WHY ME...
THERE'S A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR THIS.
NO, NOT AT ALL...
DID YOU FLICK IT WEAKLY OR SOMETHING?

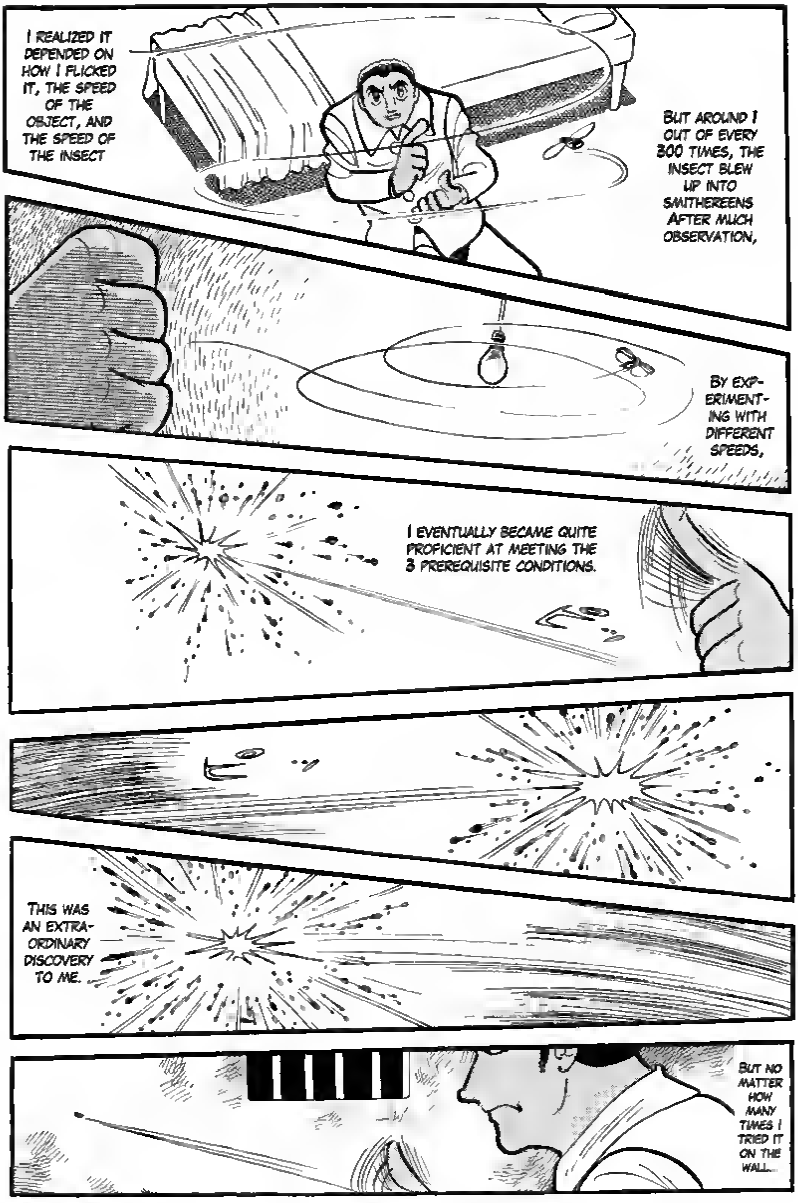
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE WINDOWPANES CREAKING ON A CAR OR TRAIN TRAVELLING AT VERY HIGH SPEEDS...?
品川 51
な 32-70

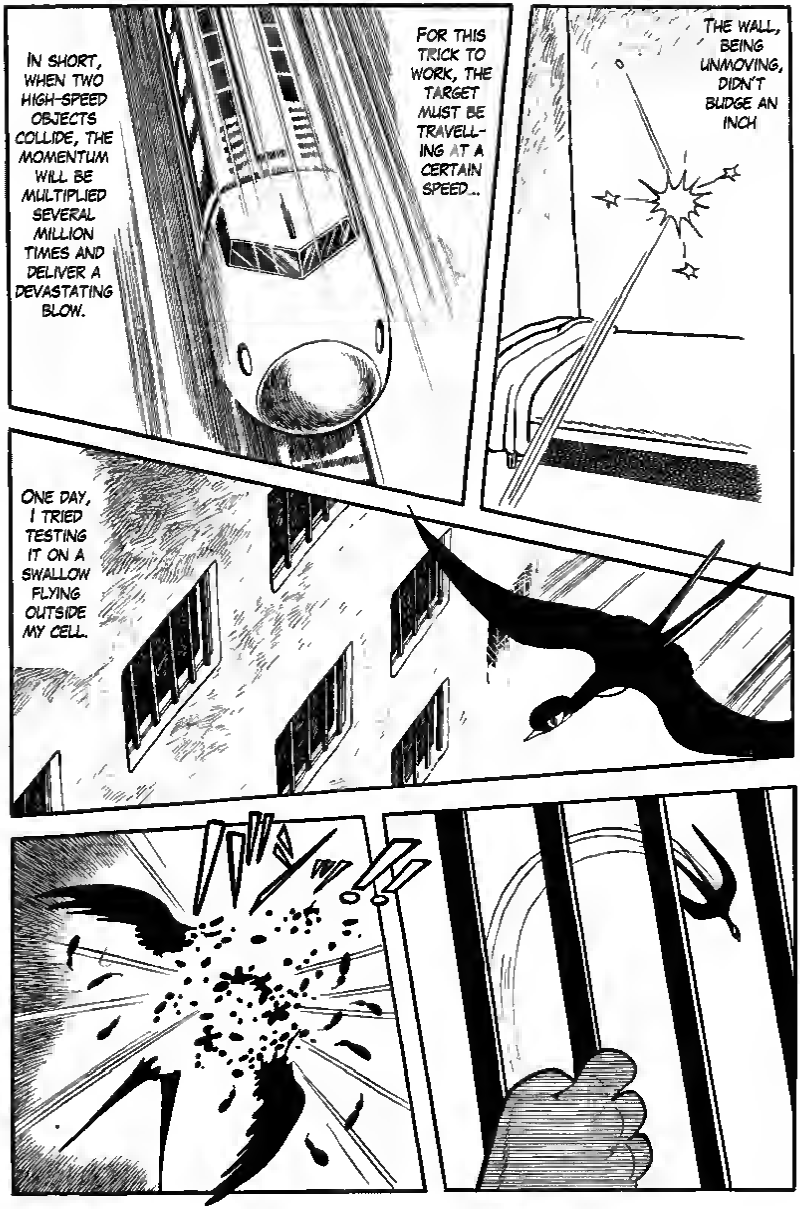

WHAT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENING IS THAT VERY FINE CRACKS, SO TINY TO BE INVISIBLE TO THE EYE, ARE SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE GLASS.

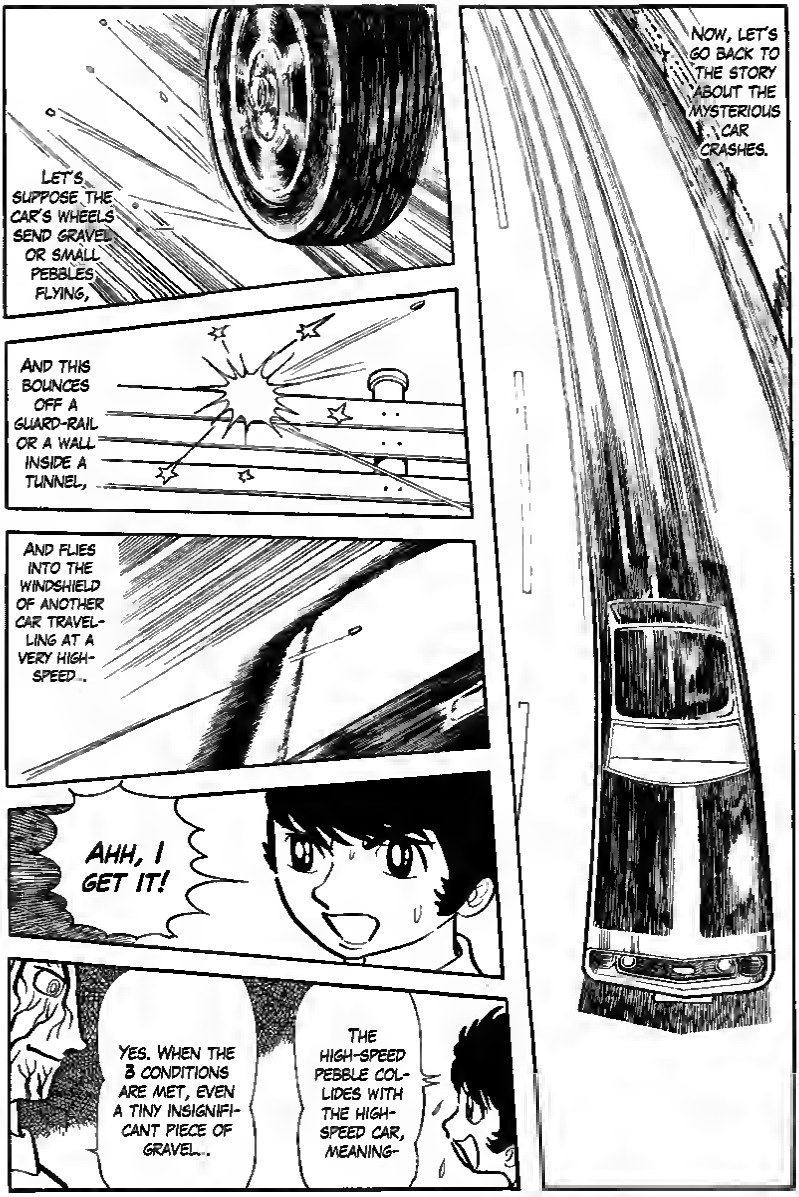

THESE ACCIDENTS HAPPEN NOT ONLY IN JAPAN, BUT IN AMERICA AND EUROPE AS WELL. THE CAUSE IS NOT UNDERSTOOD WELL, AND SOME EVEN THEORIZE IT TO BE WORK OF ALIENS.
SOMETIMES WHEN IT HAPPENS TO THE WINDSHIELD, THE DRIVER SUDDENLY CANNOT SEE WHAT IS IN FRONT AND CRASHES AS A RESULT.
32-70

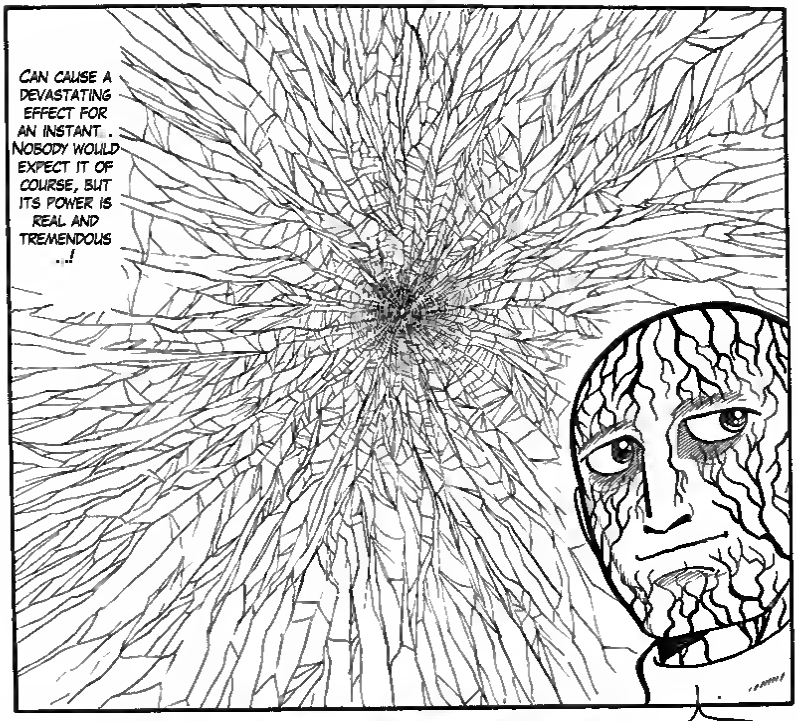

BACK WHEN I WAS IN PRISON,
NO, THESE THINGS DO HAPPEN EVEN WITH NO OUTSIDE INTER-VENTION.
THAT'S CRAZY.
SOMEONE MUST'VE SHOT THE WINDOW-PANES WITH AN AIR GUN OR SOME-THING.
A LARGE MOTH FLEW INTO MY CELL ONE NIGHT.
I TRIED FLICKING SOME CEMENT PIECES AT IT...
IT WAS FLYING ABOUT VERY ANNOYINGLY AND WHEN I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE,

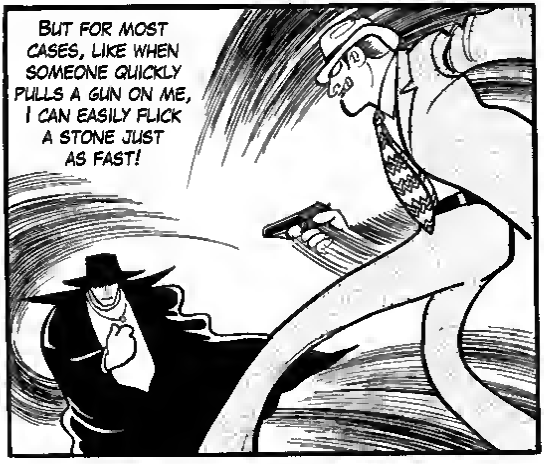

TO MAKE SURE,
I TRIED IT AGAIN
FLICKING CEMENT PIECES AT INSECTS,
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.
MOST OF THE TIME, THE INSECTS I HIT DIED NORMALLY.
I WAS COMP-LETELY DUMB-FOUNDED BY WHAT HAPPENED.
WHEN I HIT IT, THE MOTH BLEW UP INTO SMITHEREENS.


I REALIZED IT DEPENDED ON HOW I FLICKED IT, THE SPEED OF THE OBJECT, AND THE SPEED OF THE INSECT
BUT AROUND 1 OUT OF EVERY 300 TIMES, THE INSECT BLEW UP INTO SMITHEREENS AFTER MUCH OBSERVATION,
BY EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT SPEEDS,
I EVENTUALLY BECAME QUITE PROFICIENT AT MEETING THE 3 PREREQUISITE CONDITIONS.
THIS WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY TO ME.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRIED IT ON THE WALL...

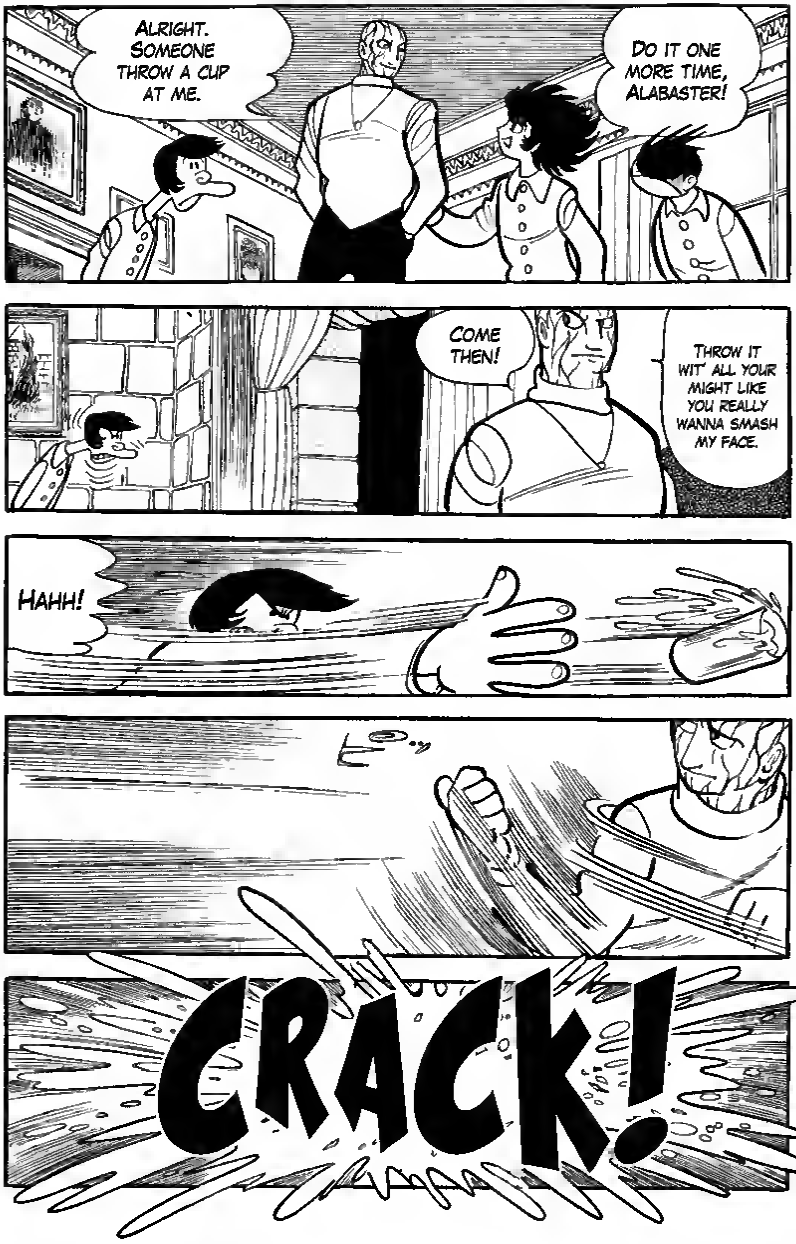

IN SHORT, WHEN TWO HIGH-SPEED OBJECTS COLLIDE, THE MOMENTUM WILL BE MULTIPLIED SEVERAL MILLION TIMES AND DELIVER A DEVASTATING BLOW.
FOR THIS TRICK TO WORK, THE TARGET MUST BE TRAVELLING AT A CERTAIN SPEED...
THE WALL, BEING UNMOVING, DIDN'T BUDGE AN INCH
ONE DAY, I TRIED TESTING IT ON A SWALLOW FLYING OUTSIDE MY CELL.

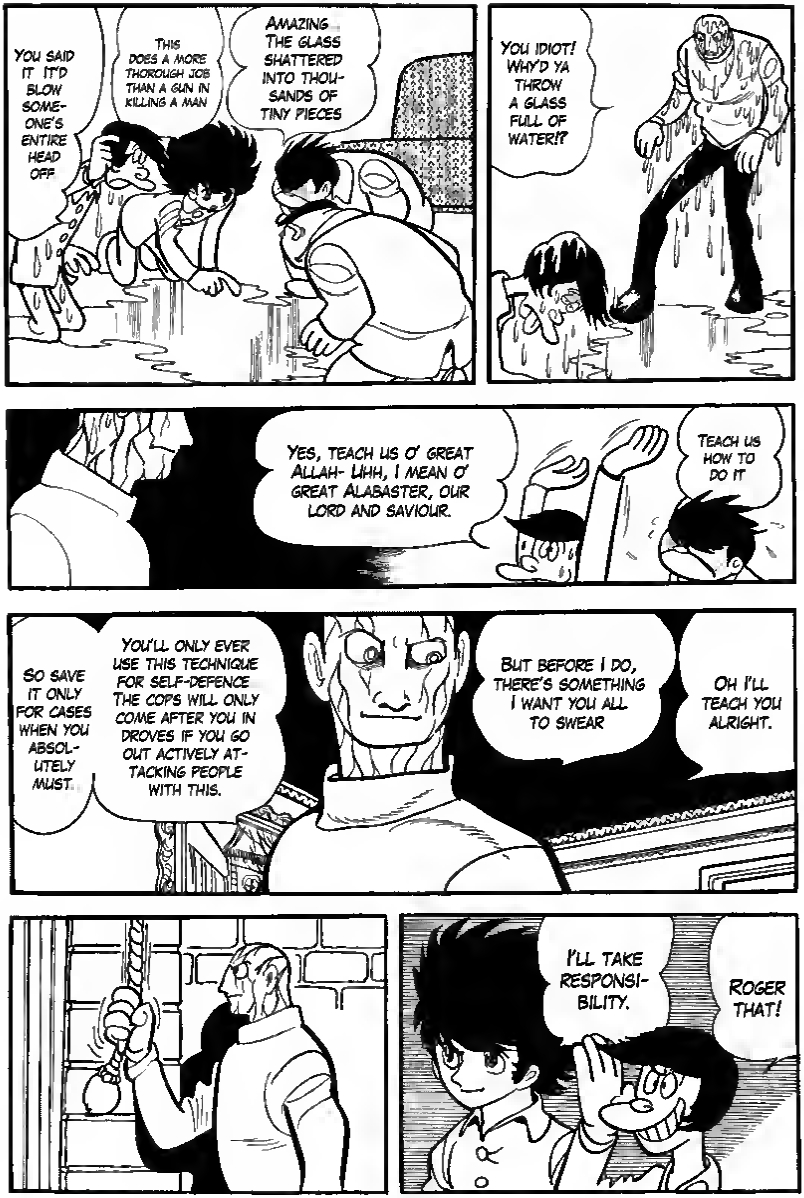

LET'S SUPPOSE THE CAR'S WHEELS SEND GRAVEL OR SMALL PEBBLES FLYING,
AND THIS BOUNCES OFF A GUARD-RAIL OR A WALL INSIDE A TUNNEL,
AND FLIES INTO THE WINDSHIELD OF ANOTHER CAR TRAVELLING AT A VERY HIGH-SPEED..
AHH, I GET IT!
YES. WHEN THE 3 CONDITIONS ARE MET, EVEN A TINY INSIGNIFICANT PIECE OF GRAVEL...
THE HIGH-SPEED PEBBLE COLLIDES WITH THE HIGH-SPEED CAR, MEANING-
NOW, LET'S GO BACK TO THE STORY ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS CAR CRASHES.


CAN CAUSE A DEVASTATING EFFECT FOR AN INSTANT. NOBODY WOULD EXPECT IT OF COURSE, BUT ITS POWER IS REAL AND TREMENDOUS ..!

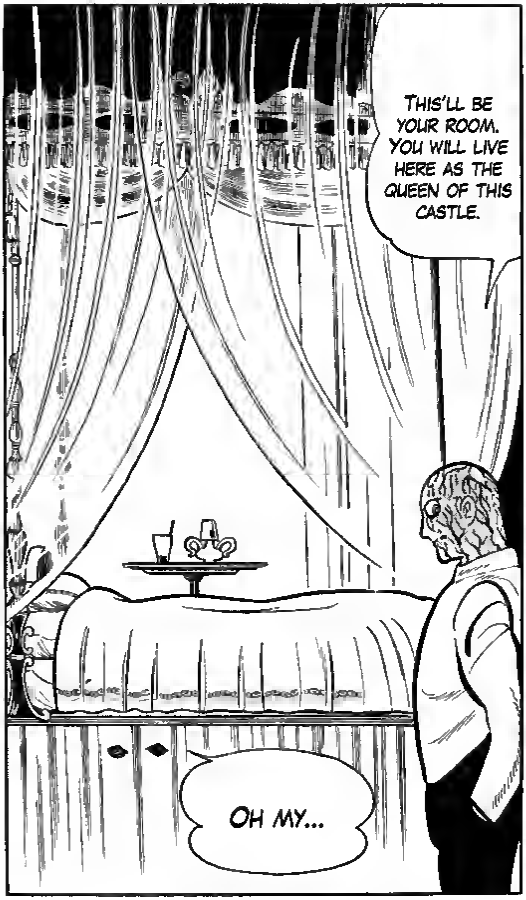

BUT FOR MOST CASES, LIKE WHEN SOMEONE QUICKLY PULLS A GUN ON ME, I CAN EASILY FLICK A STONE JUST AS FAST!

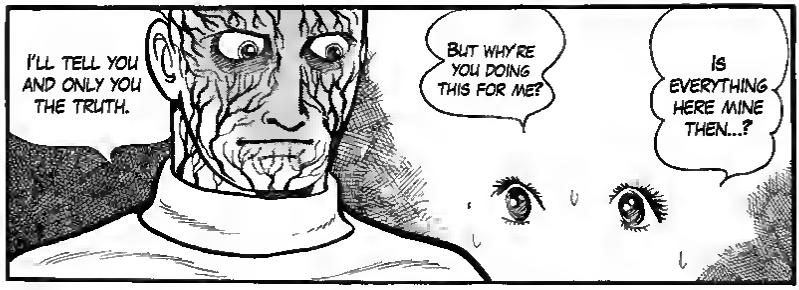
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY WEAPON?
HM...
ITS ONLY WEAKNESS IS THAT IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS IF MY TARGET IS STILL.


ALRIGHT. SOMEONE THROW A CUP AT ME.
DO IT ONE MORE TIME, ALABASTER!
COME THEN!
THROW IT WIT' ALL YOUR MIGHT LIKE YOU REALLY WANNA SMASH MY FACE.
HAHH!
CRACK!

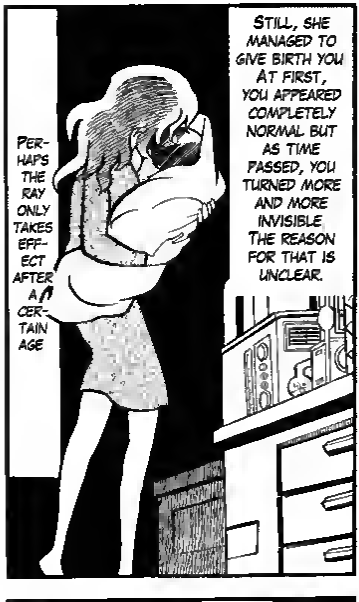

You said it it'd blow some-one's entire head off
This does a more thorough job than a gun in killing a man
Amazing The glass shattered into thou-sands of tiny pieces
You idiot! Why'd ya throw a glass full of water!?
Yes, teach us o' great Allah- Uhh, I mean o' great Alabaster, our lord and saviour.
Teach us how to do it
So save it only for cases when you absol-utely must.
You'll only ever use this technique for self-defence The cops will only come after you in droves if you go out actively at-tacking people with this.
But before I do, there's something I want you all to swear
Oh I'll teach you alright.
I'll take responsi-bility.
Roger that!

SHOW THESE LADS TO THE DINING HALL AND LET THEM EAT.
AGHHH!?
ONCE YOU'VE EATEN, I SUGGEST YOU HEAD TO BED IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, THIS DOG IS THE CARETAKER OF THIS CASTLE
YOU CAN COME THIS WAY.
AMI.

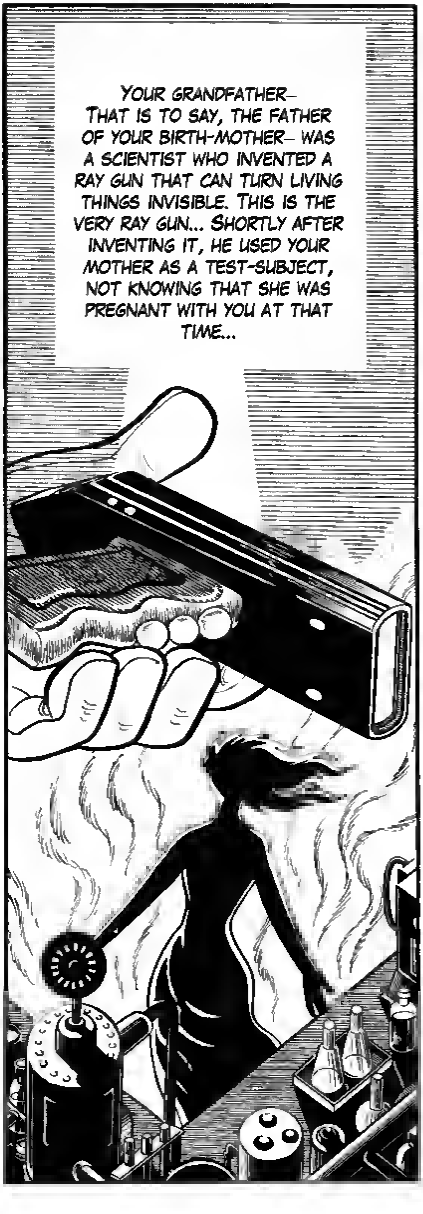

THIS'LL BE YOUR ROOM. YOU WILL LIVE HERE AS THE QUEEN OF THIS CASTLE.
OH MY...

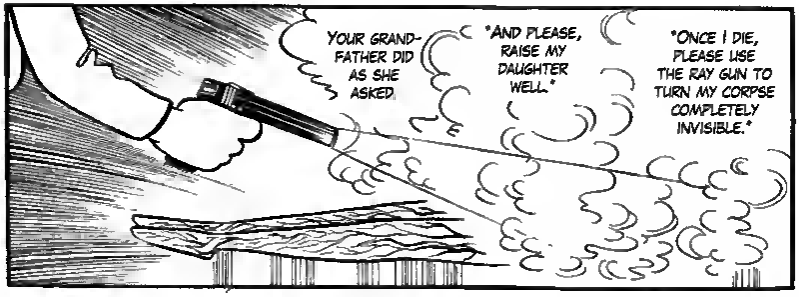

I'LL TELL YOU AND ONLY YOU THE TRUTH.
BUT WHY'RE YOU DOING THIS FOR ME?
IS EVERYTHING HERE MINE THEN...?

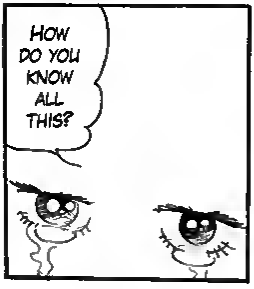
UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
THE RAY GUN
WAS IMPERFECT
AND IT LEFT
YOUR MOTHER
DISFIGURED.
LIKE ME


PER-
HAPS
THE
RAY
ONLY
TAKES
EFF-
ECT
AFTER
A
CER-
TAIN
AGE
STILL, SHE
MANAGED TO
GIVE BIRTH YOU
AT FIRST,
YOU APPEARED
COMPLETELY
NORMAL BUT
AS TIME
PASSED, YOU
TURNED MORE
AND MORE
INVISIBLE
THE REASON
FOR THAT IS
UNCLEAR.

SOON AFTER,
YOUR MOTHER
COMMITTED
SUICIDE, LEAV-
ING A WILL
THAT READ:

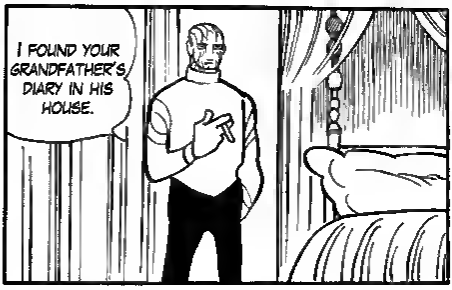

YOUR GRANDFATHER—
THAT IS TO SAY, THE FATHER
OF YOUR BIRTH-MOTHER— WAS
A SCIENTIST WHO INVENTED A
RAY GUN THAT CAN TURN LIVING
THINGS INVISIBLE. THIS IS THE
VERY RAY GUN... SHORTLY AFTER
INVENTING IT, HE USED YOUR
MOTHER AS A TEST-SUBJECT,
NOT KNOWING THAT SHE WAS
PREGNANT WITH YOU AT THAT
TIME...

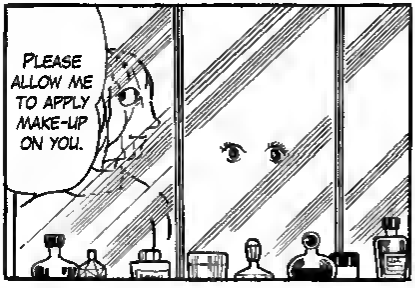

YOUR GRAND-FATHER DID AS SHE ASKED.
"AND PLEASE, RAISE MY DAUGHTER WELL."
"ONCE I DIE, PLEASE USE THE RAY GUN TO TURN MY CORPSE COMPLETELY INVISIBLE."

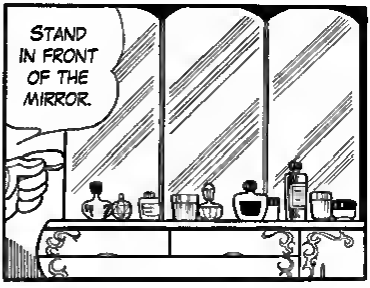

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

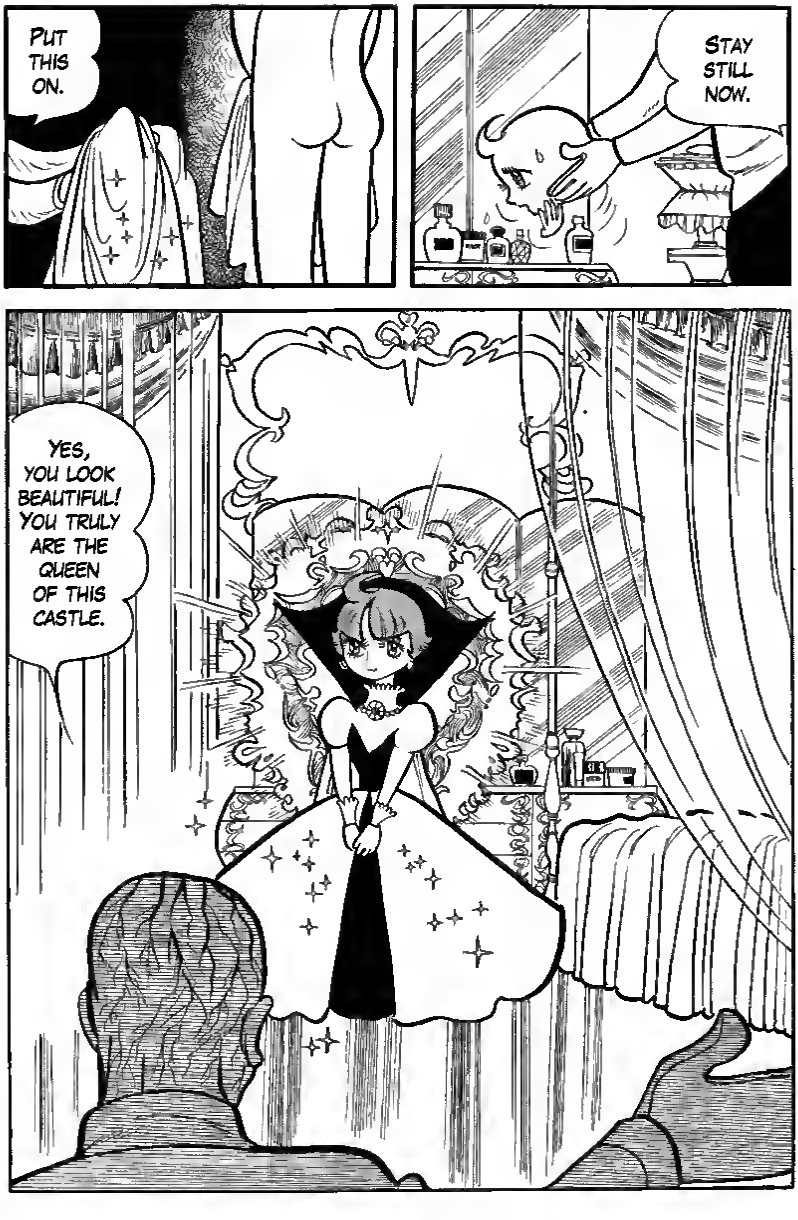
MOTHER...

COME THEN, AMI.


I FOUND YOUR GRANDFATHER'S DIARY IN HIS HOUSE.

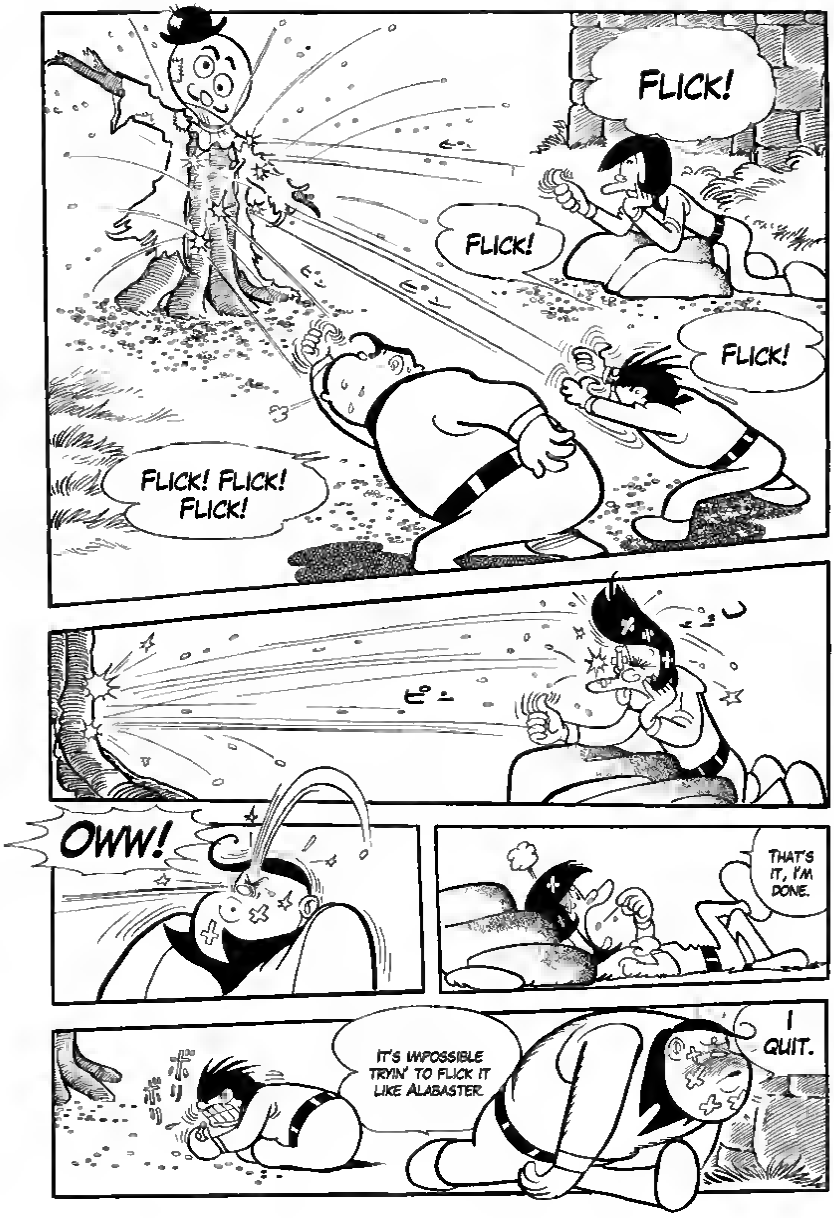

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO APPLY MAKE-UP ON YOU.

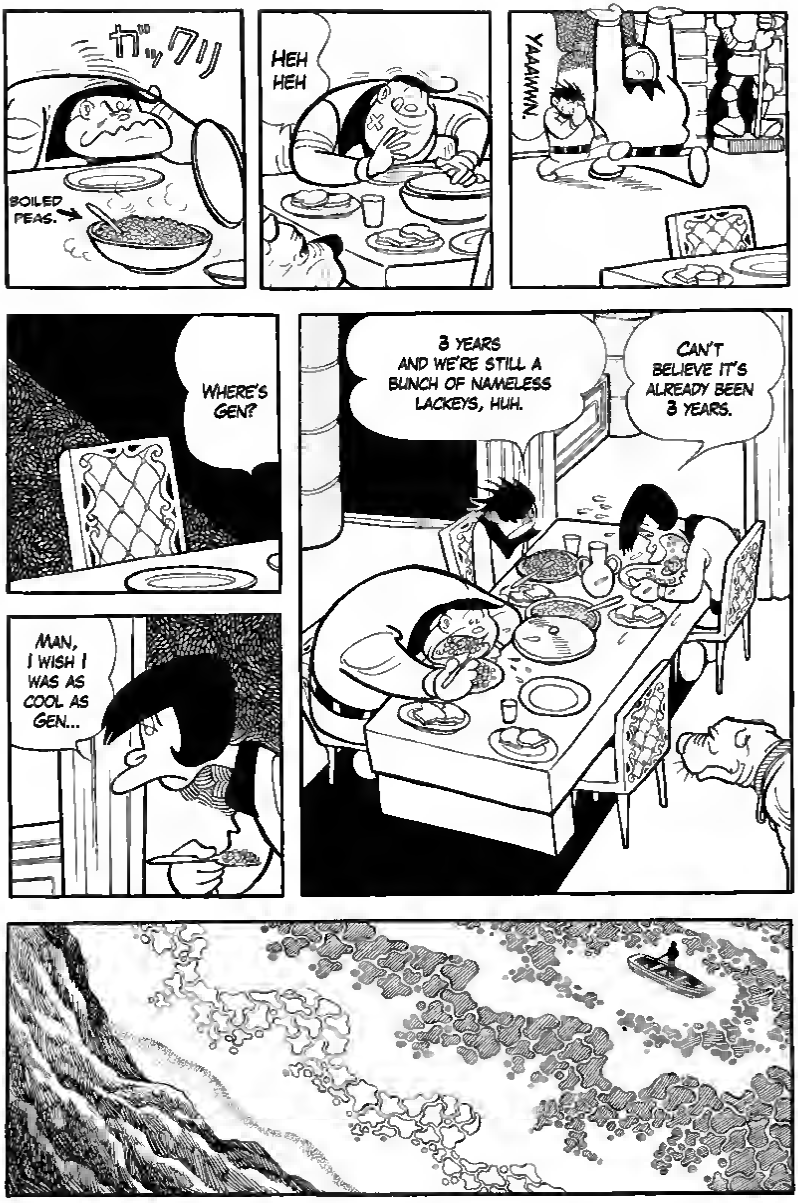

STAND IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR.

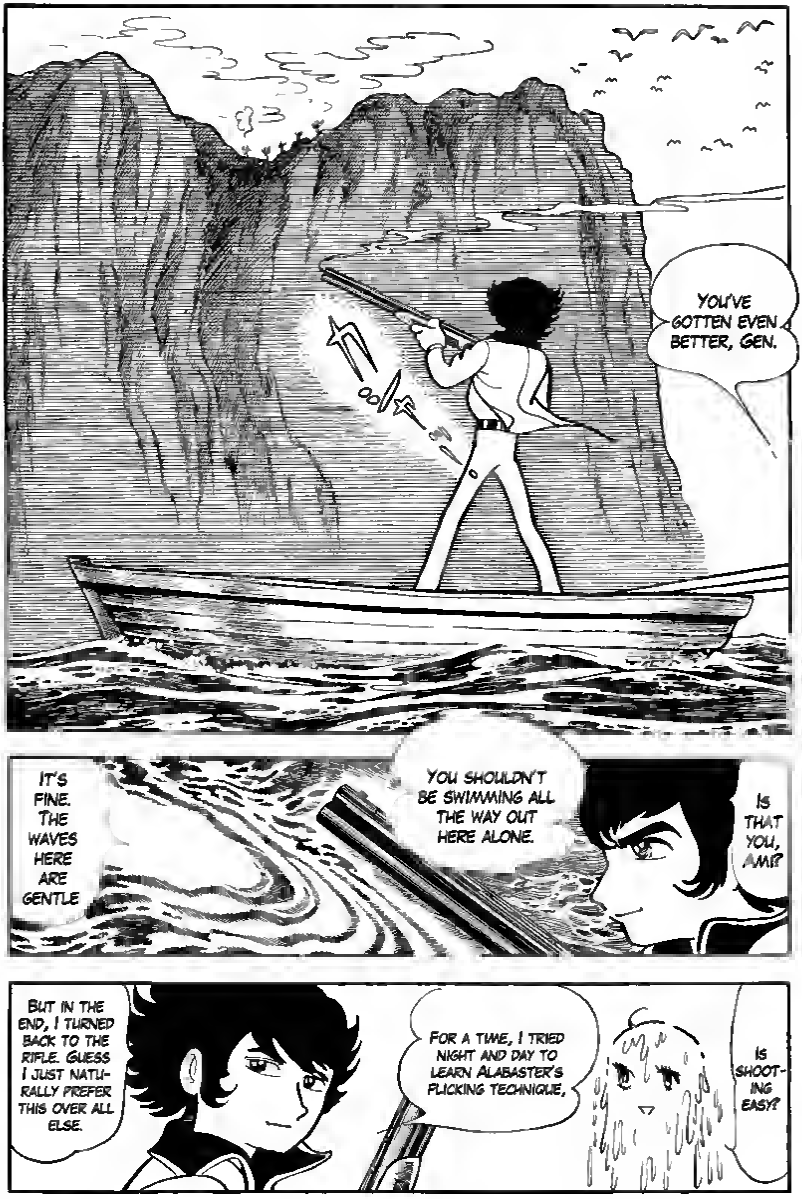

PUT THIS ON.
STAY STILL NOW.
YES, YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL! YOU TRULY ARE THE QUEEN OF THIS CASTLE.

It's your only inheritance. I advise you to take good care of it.
I don't need such a terrifying thing!
This ray gun is now yours.
That was your mother's farewell gift to you.
Then feel free to use it to erase them.
If you see those who disguise themselves with false beauty,

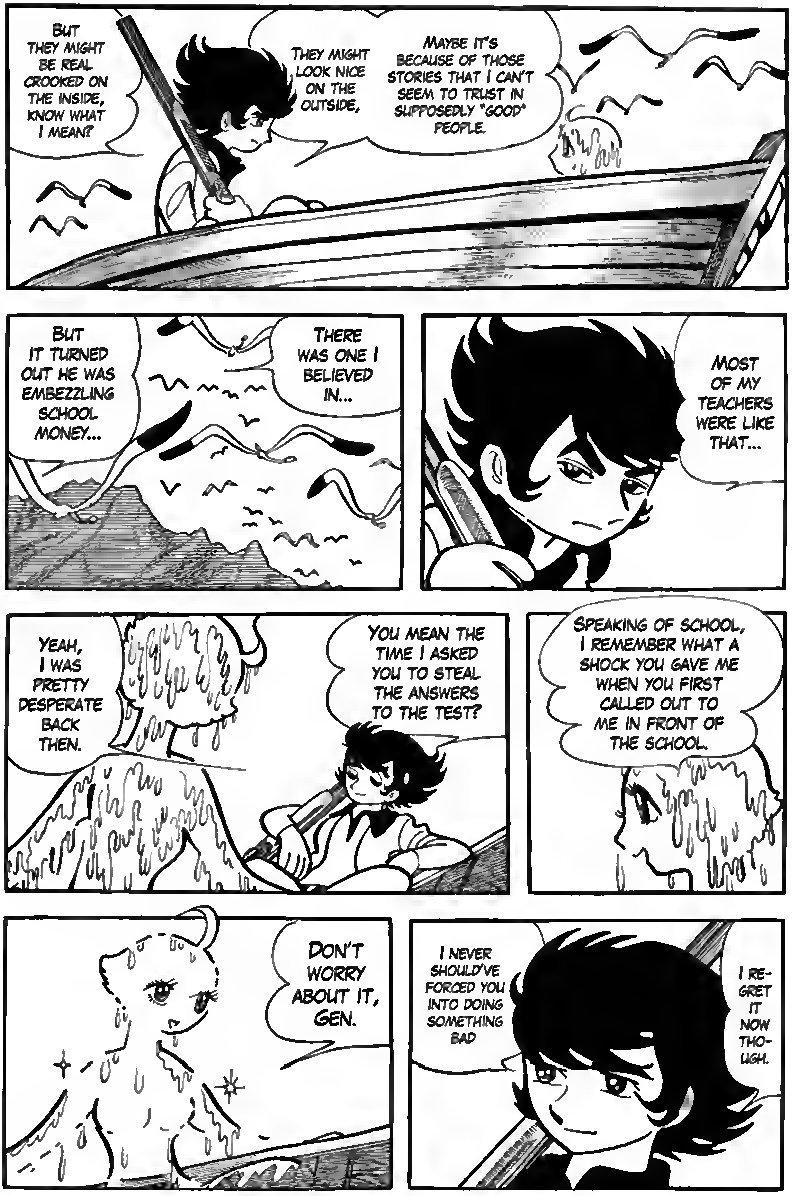
Chapter 5
FBI

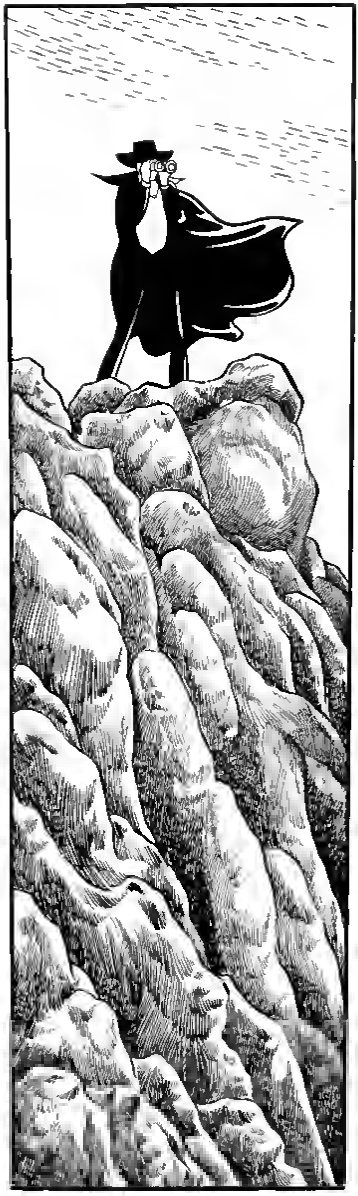

FLICK!
FLICK!
FLICK!
FLICK! FLICK! FLICK!
OWW!
THAT'S IT, I'M DONE.
I QUIT.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TRYIN' TO FLICK IT LIKE ALABASTER.

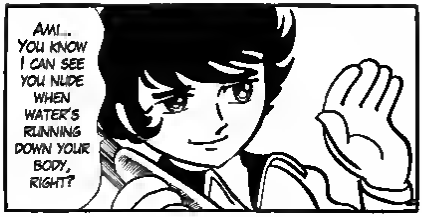

ガッ クリ
BOILED PEAS.
HEH HEH
YAAAWWN.
WHERE'S GEN?
MAN, I WISH I WAS AS COOL AS GEN...
3 YEARS AND WE'RE STILL A BUNCH OF NAMELESS LACKEYS, HUH.
CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY BEEN 3 YEARS.

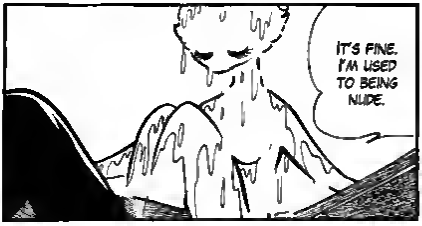

YOU'VE GOTTEN EVEN BETTER, GEN.
IT'S FINE. THE WAVES HERE ARE GENTLE
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SWIMMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE ALONE.
IS THAT YOU, AMI?
BUT IN THE END, I TURNED BACK TO THE RIFLE. GUESS I JUST NATURALLY PREFER THIS OVER ALL ELSE.
FOR A TIME, I TRIED NIGHT AND DAY TO LEARN ALABASTER'S PLICKING TECHNIQUE,
IS SHOOTING EASY?

BUT 'CAUSE OF THAT,
FOR THAT REASON, HE WAS ALWAYS SENT OUT TO THE FRONT LINES.
MY POPS USED TO BE THE BEST SHOT IN HIS UNIT DURING THE WAR
A LOT OF THE MEN WHO HAD RAMBLED ON ABOUT JUSTICE OR BRAVERY UNTIL THEN WERE THE FIRST TO RUN WHEN THE FIGHTING BECAME INTENSE.
HE ALSO SAW COUNTLESS OF PEOPLE GET SLAUGHTERED.
ONCE YOU'VE SEEN HIM STARE DEATH IN THE EYE.
HE TOLD ME YOU CAN ONLY REALLY UNDER-STAND A MAN,
MY FATHER TOLD ME A LOT OF WAR STORIES LIKE THAT
. . . . .

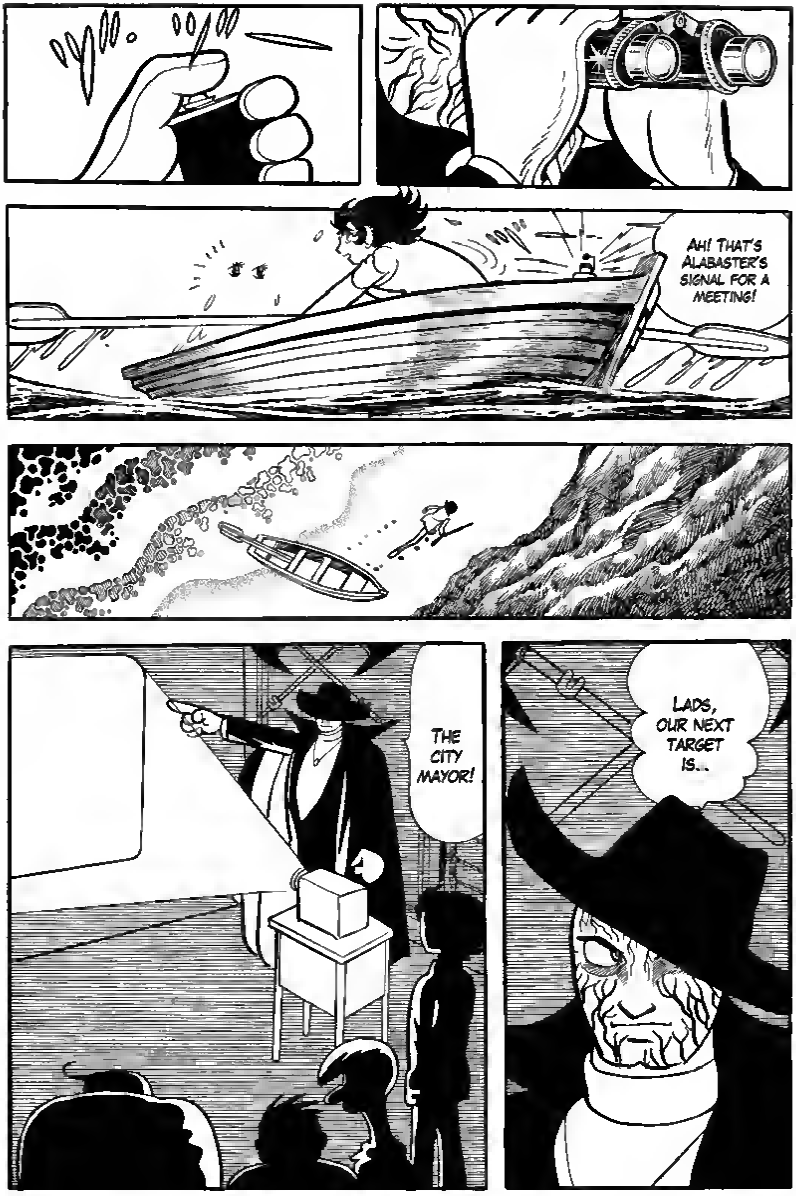

BUT THEY MIGHT BE REAL CROOKED ON THE INSIDE, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
THEY MIGHT LOOK NICE ON THE OUTSIDE,
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THOSE STORIES THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO TRUST IN SUPPOSEDLY "GOOD" PEOPLE.
BUT IT TURNED OUT HE WAS EMBEZZLING SCHOOL MONEY...
THERE WAS ONE I BELIEVED IN...
MOST OF MY TEACHERS WERE LIKE THAT...
YEAH, I WAS PRETTY DESPERATE BACK THEN.
YOU MEAN THE TIME I ASKED YOU TO STEAL THE ANSWERS TO THE TEST?
SPEAKING OF SCHOOL, I REMEMBER WHAT A SHOCK YOU GAVE ME WHEN YOU FIRST CALLED OUT TO ME IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, GEN.
I NEVER SHOULD'VE FORCED YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING BAD
I REGRET IT NOW THOUGH.

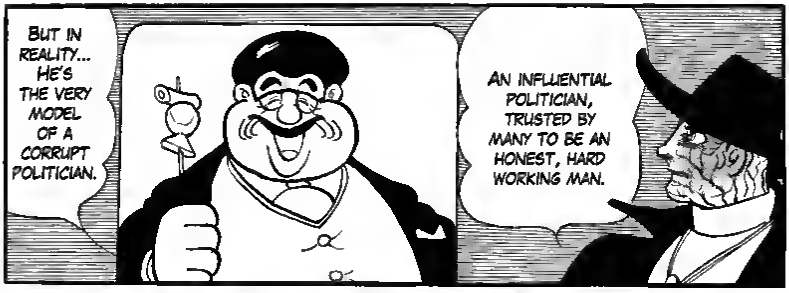



AMI... YOU KNOW I CAN SEE YOU NUDE WHEN WATER'S RUNNING DOWN YOUR BODY, RIGHT?


IT'S FINE. I'M USED TO BEING NUDE.

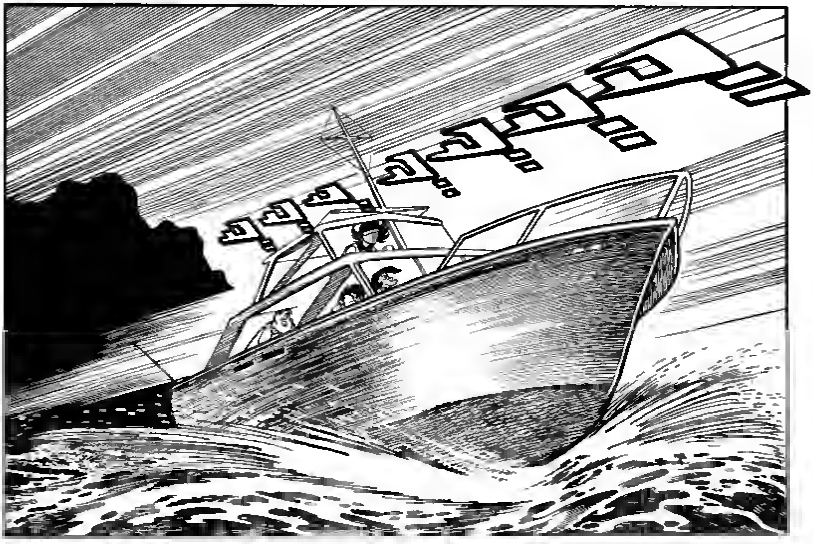
AMI... I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE YOU

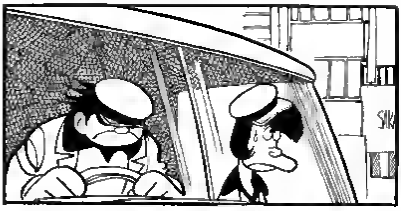

AH! THAT'S ALABASTER'S SIGNAL FOR A MEETING!
THE CITY MAYOR!
LADS, OUR NEXT TARGET IS...

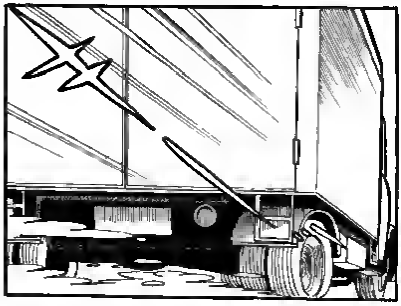

BUT IN REALITY... HE'S THE VERY MODEL OF A CORRUPT POLITICIAN.
AN INFLUENTIAL POLITICIAN, TRUSTED BY MANY TO BE AN HONEST, HARD WORKING MAN.

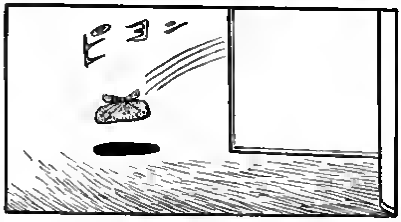
THIS WEEK.
WHEN DO WE START?

OUR PLAN WILL BE AS I TOLD YOU THE OTHER DAY.





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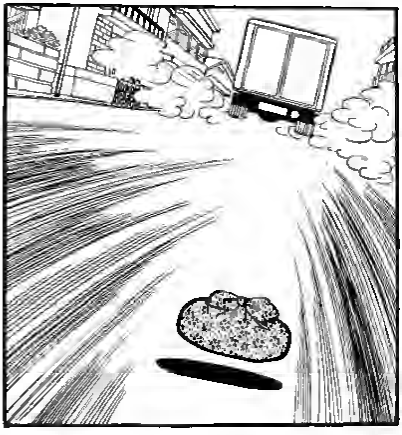
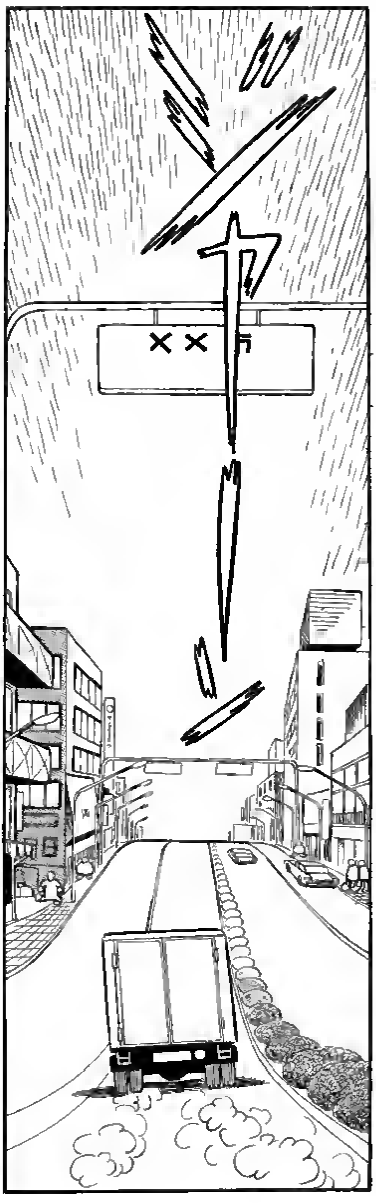
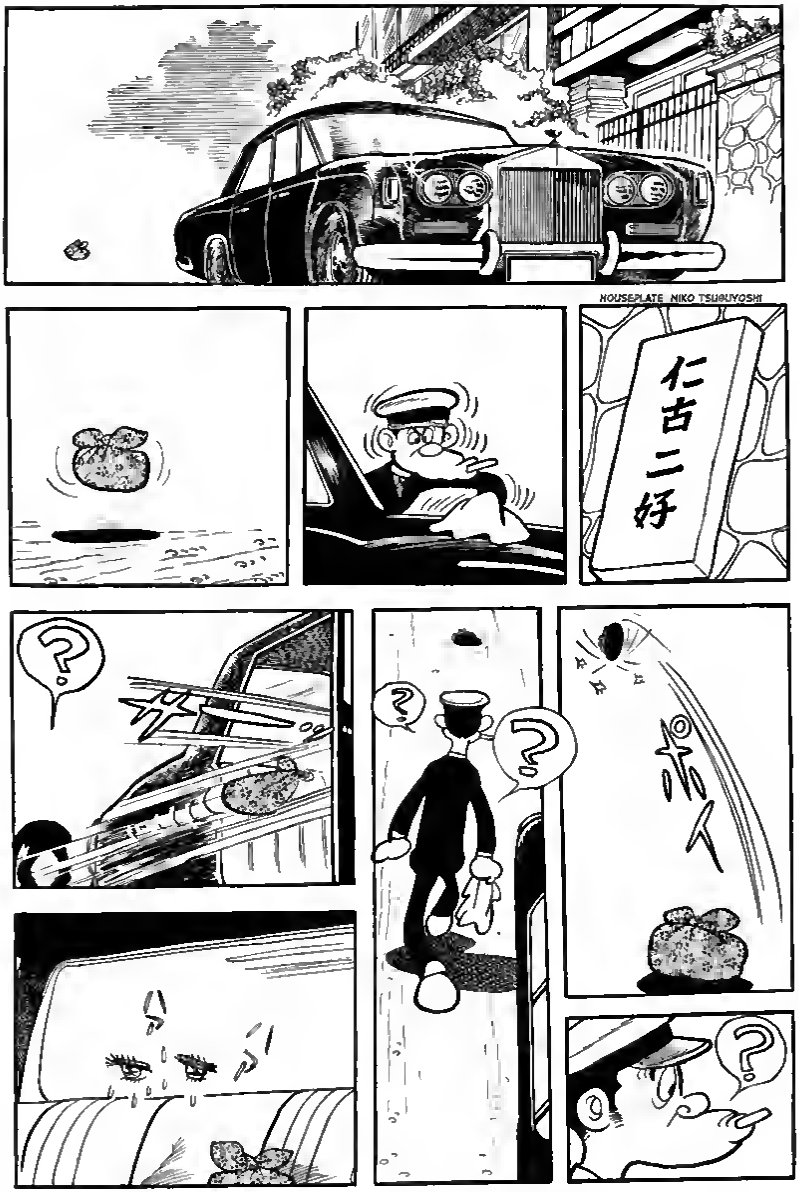
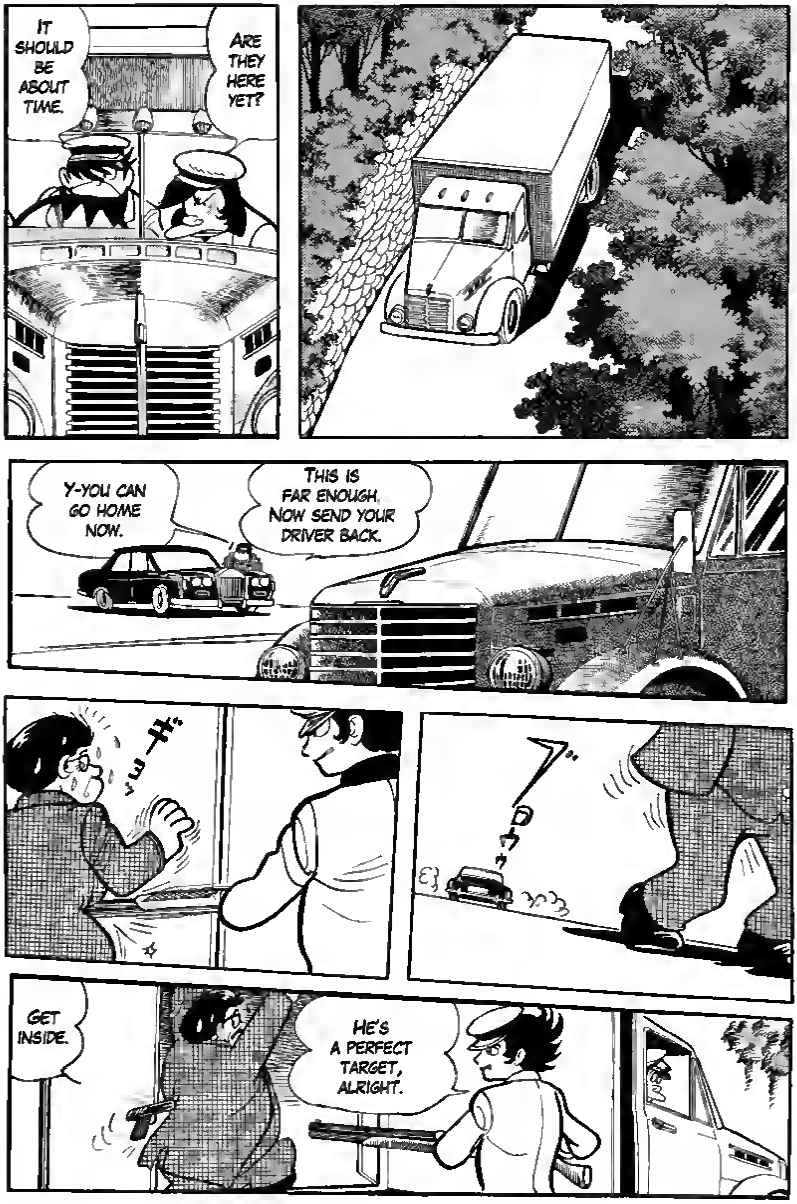
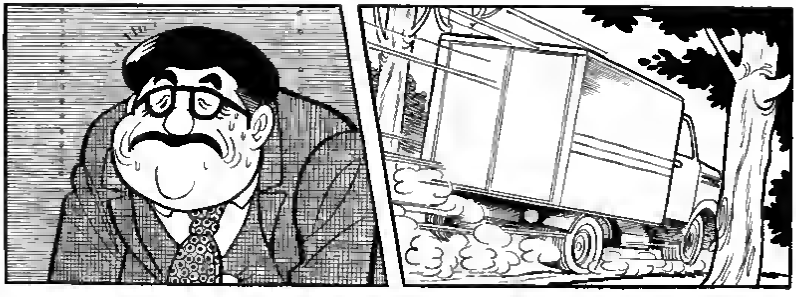





HOUSEPLATE NIKO TSUBUYOSHI
仁古二好

TAKE ME TO THE CITY HALL.
TO HEAD SOUTH ON ROUTE 66.
NOW CALMLY TELL YOUR DRIVER,
SHOUT AND I'LL SHOOT.
J-JUST DO AS I SAY...
PARDON? WHAT ABOUT THE CITY HALL?
T-TAKE ROUTE 66 AND HEAD SOUTH.

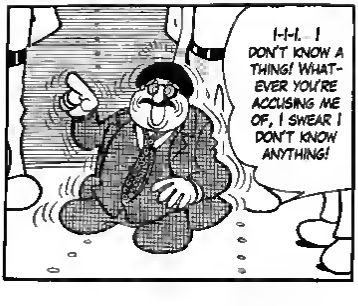

IT SHOULD BE ABOUT TIME.
ARE THEY HERE YET?
Y-YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.
THIS IS FAR ENOUGH. NOW SEND YOUR DRIVER BACK.
GET INSIDE.
HE'S A PERFECT TARGET, ALRIGHT.



W-W-WHO ARE YOU ...?

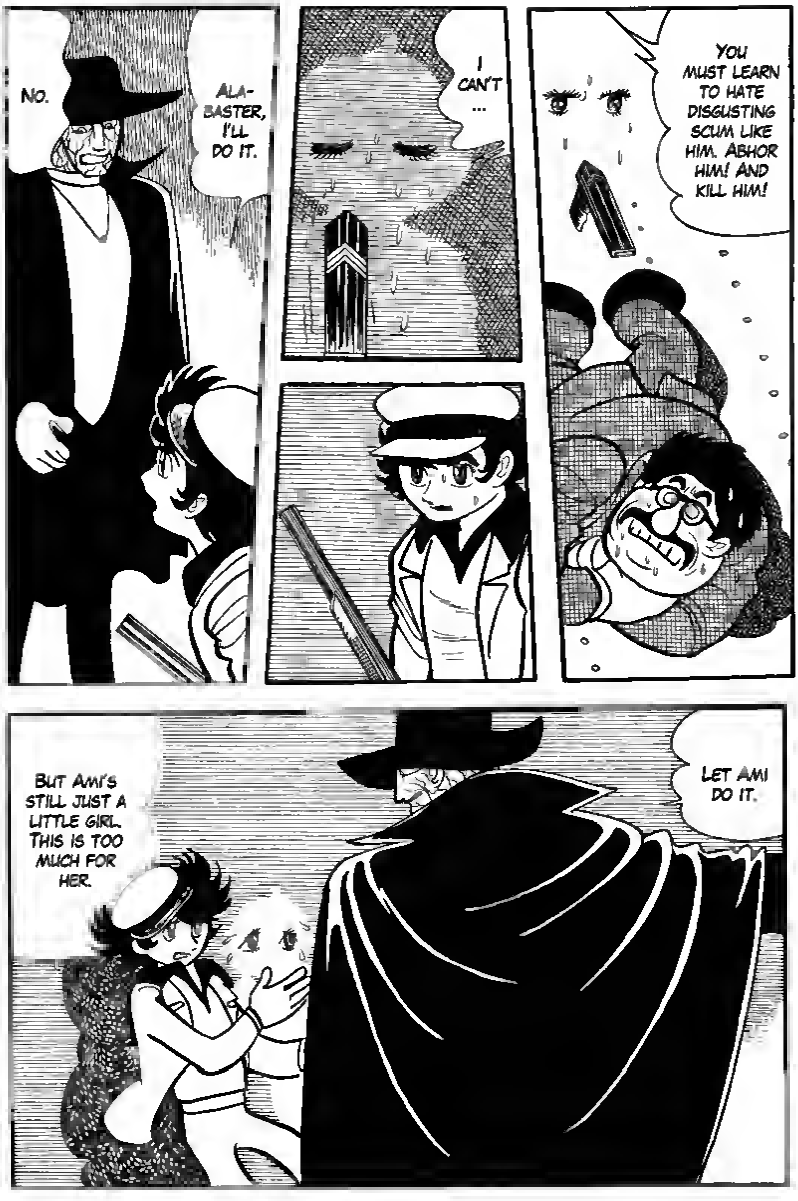
NAME'S ALABASTER. I ASSUME YOU'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT ME BY NOW.

I..I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT, S-SO JUST SPARE MY LIFE AT LEAST!

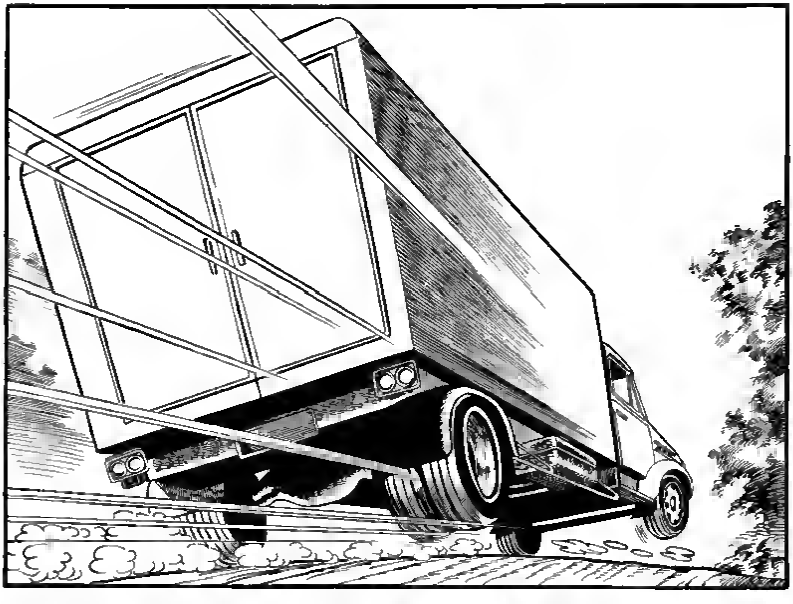

I-I-I... I DON'T KNOW A THING! WHATEVER YOU'RE ACCUSING ME OF, I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

WRITE HOW-EVER MUCH YOU THINK A HUMAN LIFE IS WORTH. BUT LET ME WARN YOU. IF THE AMOUNT IS TOO LITTLE, THE DEAL'S OFF
HOW MUCH? THAT'LL BE UP TO YOU TO DECIDE.
F-FOR HOW MUCH?
FINE, THEN WRITE ME A CHECK.
TOO BAD BUT THIS MUCH AIN'T NEARLY ENOUGH TO SAVE YOUR SORRY LIFE.
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW MUCH YOU'VE EARNED FROM YOUR "SEEDY" VENTURES YOU'RE A DEVIL WEARING A HALO.
OH REALLY NOW?
THAT'S MY ENTIRE SAVINGS!
W-W-WHAT!? THAT'S RI-DICULOUS!
DAMN YOU...

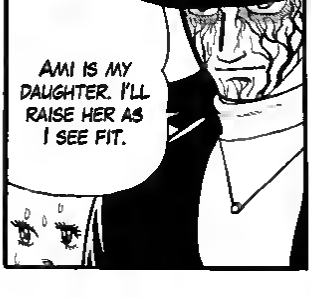
I'LL KILL YOU!
UGHH!
N-NO... I COULDN'T POSSIBLY KILL A MAN!
YOU FINISH HIM OFF, AMI.
H-HELP ME...
YOU'RE STILL LACKING IN HATE.
IT SEEMS..
HOW DISAP-POINT-ING

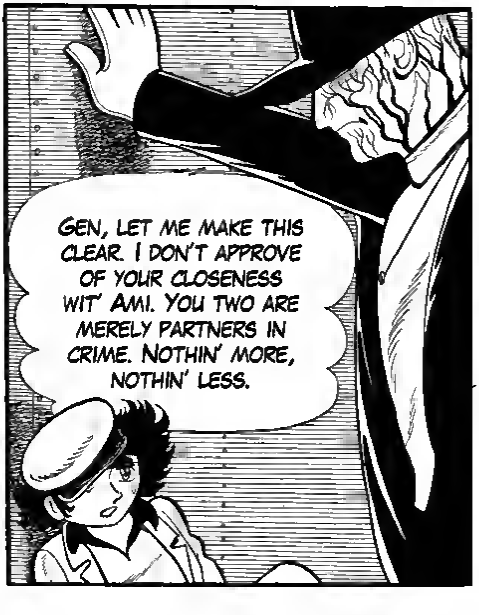

NO.
ALA-BASTER, I'LL DO IT.
I CAN'T ...
YOU MUST LEARN TO HATE DISGUSTING SCUM LIKE HIM. ABHOR HIM! AND KILL HIM!
BUT AMI'S STILL JUST A LITTLE GIRL. THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR HER.
LET AMI DO IT.

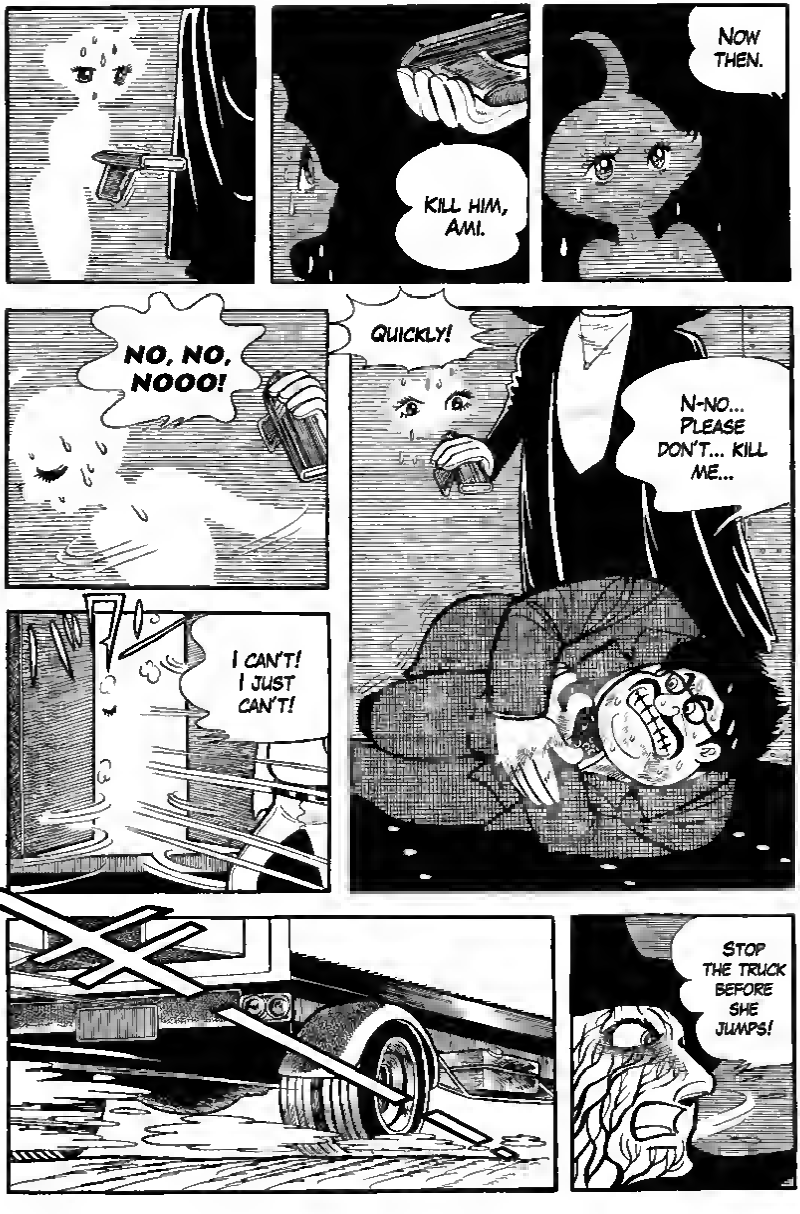
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT MY AMI!
I'M HER GUARDIAN.



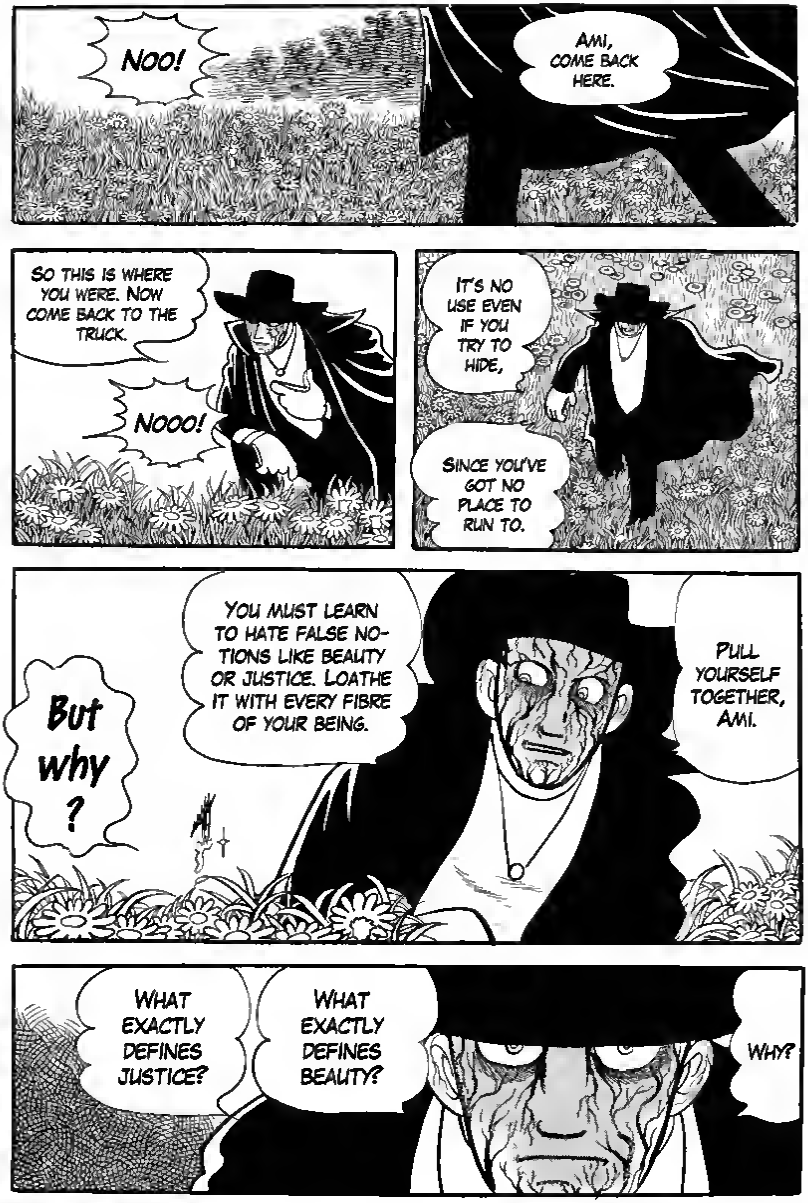
F-FINE, I GET YOU. I WAS JUST-

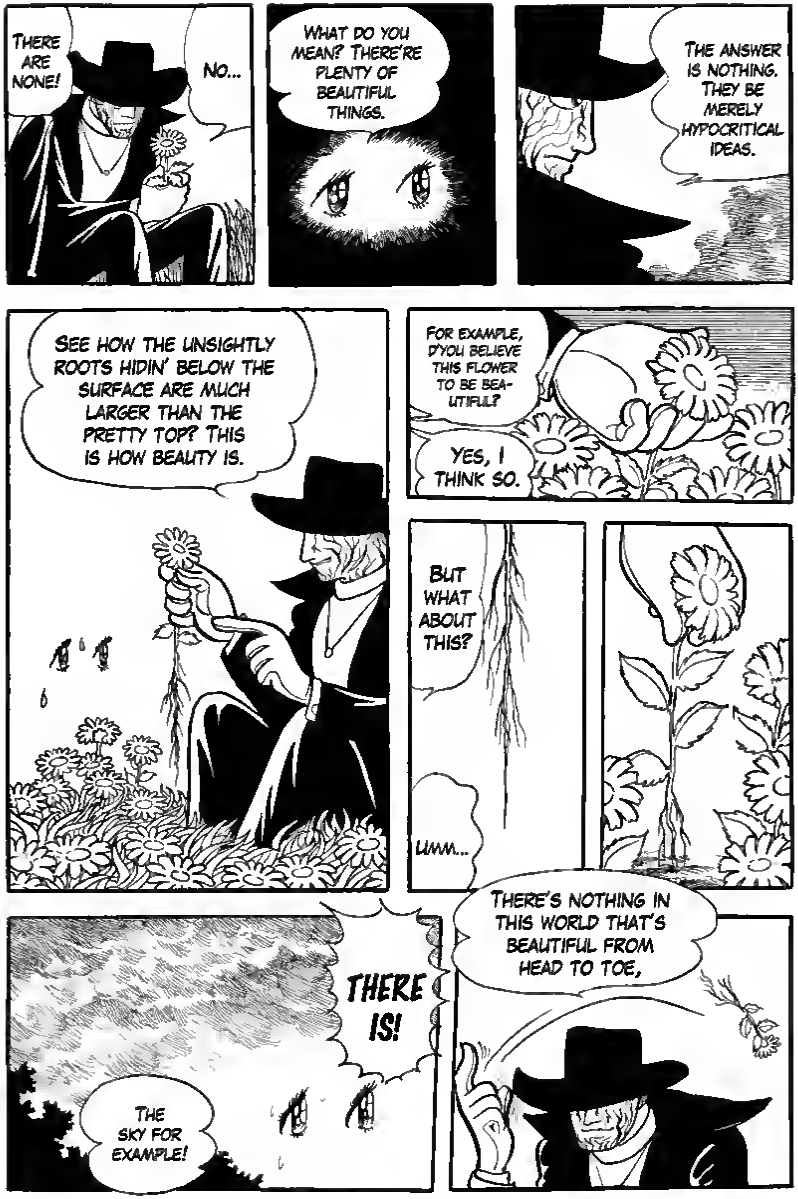

AMI IS MY DAUGHTER. I'LL RAISE HER AS I SEE FIT.


GEN, LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR. I DON'T APPROVE OF YOUR CLOSENESS WIT' AMI. YOU TWO ARE MERELY PARTNERS IN CRIME. NOTHIN' MORE, NOTHIN' LESS.


KILL HIM, AMI.
NOW THEN.
NO, NO, NOOO!
QUICKLY!
N-NO... PLEASE DON'T... KILL ME...
I CAN'T! I JUST CAN'T!
STOP THE TRUCK BEFORE SHE JUMPS!

NO...
I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE
I CAN'T...
AMI, COME BACK!
ACHHHHHH!
CAH!
FINE I GUESS I'LL DO IT MYSELF THEN.
AMI! COME BACK!


NOO!
AMI, COME BACK HERE.
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE. NOW COME BACK TO THE TRUCK.
NOOO!
IT'S NO USE EVEN IF YOU TRY TO HIDE,
SINCE YOU'VE GOT NO PLACE TO RUN TO.
But why?
YOU MUST LEARN TO HATE FALSE NOTIONS LIKE BEAUTY OR JUSTICE. LOATHE IT WITH EVERY FIBRE OF YOUR BEING.
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, AMI.
WHAT EXACTLY DEFINES JUSTICE?
WHAT EXACTLY DEFINES BEAUTY?
WHY?

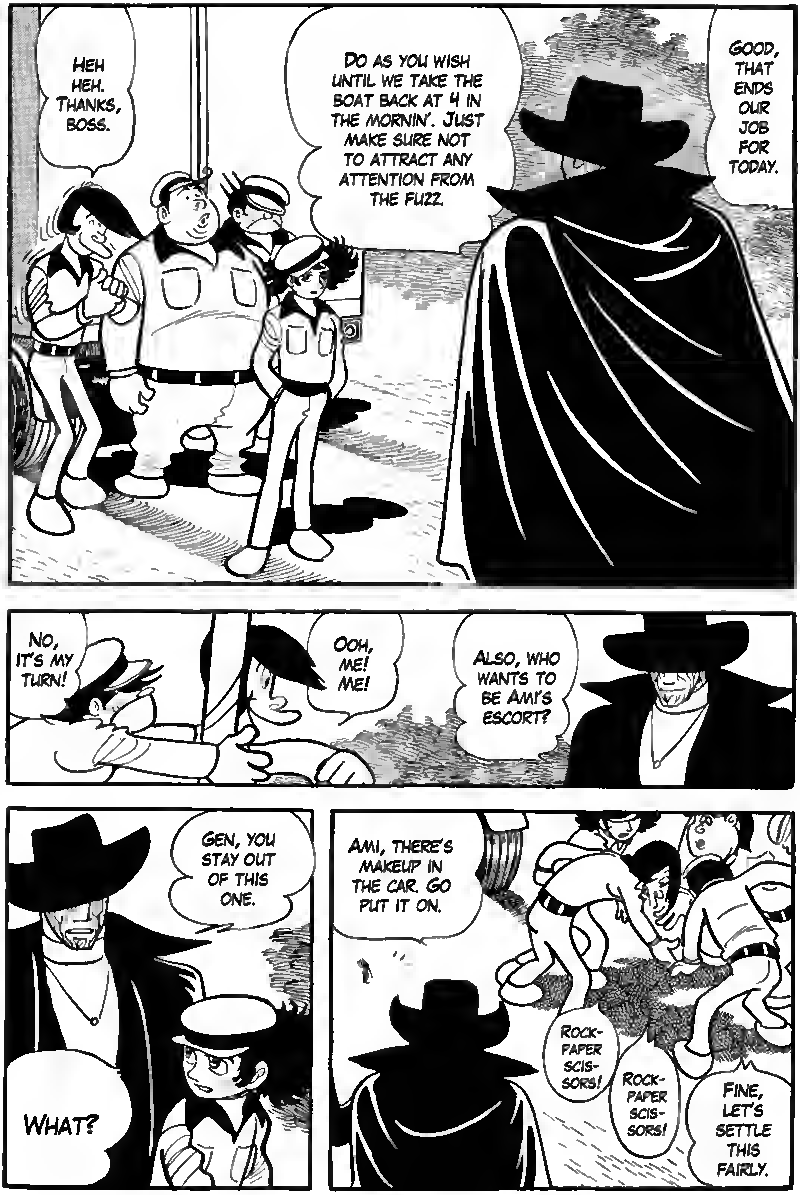

THERE ARE NONE!
NO...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THERE'RE PLENTY OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS.
THE ANSWER IS NOTHING. THEY BE MERELY HYPOCRITICAL IDEAS.
SEE HOW THE UNSIGHTLY ROOTS HIDIN' BELOW THE SURFACE ARE MUCH LARGER THAN THE PRETTY TOP? THIS IS HOW BEAUTY IS.
FOR EXAMPLE, D'YOU BELIEVE THIS FLOWER TO BE BEAUTIFUL?
YES, I THINK SO.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS?
UMM...
THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT'S BEAUTIFUL FROM HEAD TO TOE,
THERE IS!
THE SKY FOR EXAMPLE!

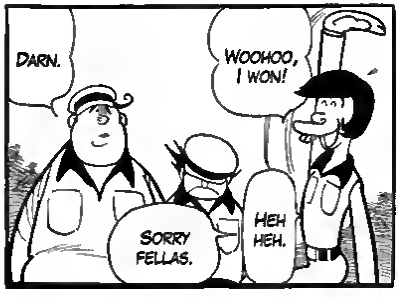
AH YES, THERE WAS A TIME I ONCE THOUGHT THE SAME...
BUT THEN...

I LEARNED FROM AN ASTRONAUT WHAT A COLD AN' DESOLATE PLACE THE SKIES REALLY ARE.

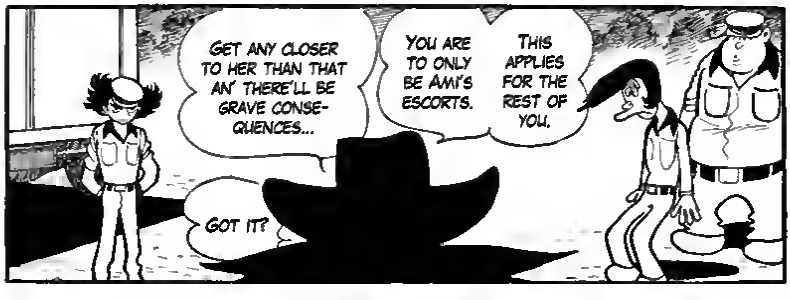
UGH, THAT GAVE ME THE CREEPS.
WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF THE CORPSE, BOSS.

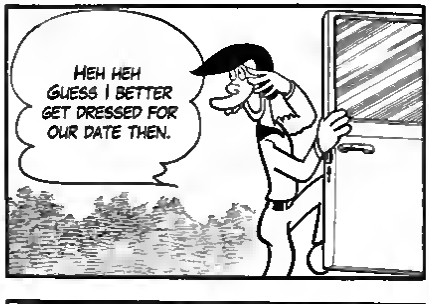
THE SKY IS ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL! EVEN WHEN IT'S COVERED BY CLOUDS!

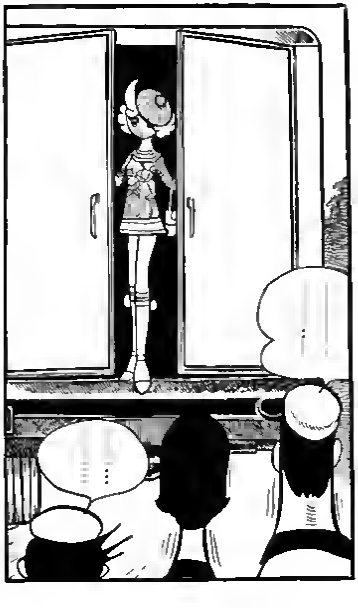

HEH HEH. THANKS, BOSS.
DO AS YOU WISH UNTIL WE TAKE THE BOAT BACK AT 4 IN THE MORNIN'. JUST MAKE SURE NOT TO ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION FROM THE FUZZ.
GOOD, THAT ENDS OUR JOB FOR TODAY.
NO, IT'S MY TURN!
OOH, ME! ME!
ALSO, WHO WANTS TO BE AMI'S ESCORT?
GEN, YOU STAY OUT OF THIS ONE.
WHAT?
AMI, THERE'S MAKEUP IN THE CAR. GO PUT IT ON.
ROCK-PAPER SCIS-SORS!
ROCK-PAPER SCIS-SORS!
FINE, LET'S SETTLE THIS FAIRLY.

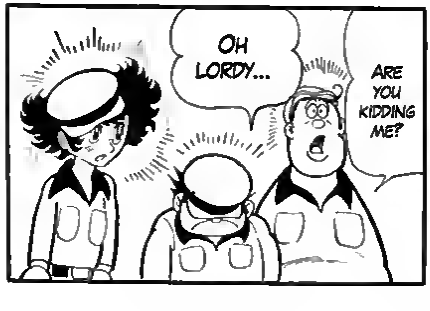

DARN.
WOOHOO, I WON!
SORRY FELLAS.
HEH HEH.

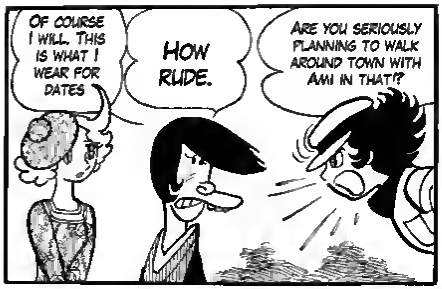
THAT'S NOT FAIR, ALABASTER!
I TOLD YOU EARLIER. YOU'RE TOO CLOSE WIT' AMI THESE DAYS.


GET ANY CLOSER TO HER THAN THAT AN' THERE'LL BE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES...
GOT IT?
YOU ARE TO ONLY BE AMI'S ESCORTS.
THIS APPLIES FOR THE REST OF YOU.

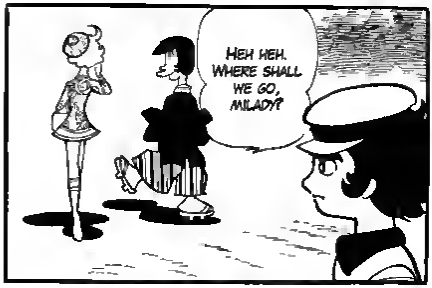

HEH HEH GUESS I BETTER GET DRESSED FOR OUR DATE THEN.

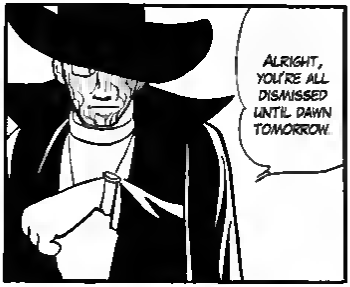



OH LORDY...
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

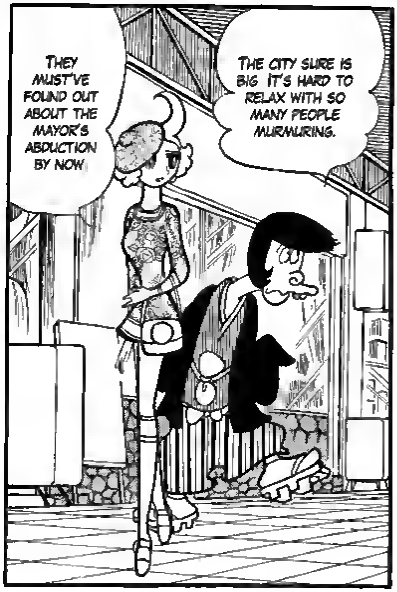

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY PLANNING TO WALK AROUND TOWN WITH AMI IN THAT!?
HOW RUDE.
OF COURSE I WILL. THIS IS WHAT I WEAR FOR DATES

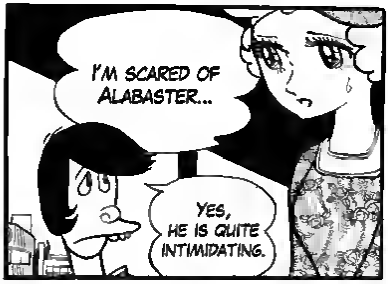
KID? WHO ME?
I'VE ALWAYS WORN THIS HAKAMA SINCE I WAS A WEE LAD

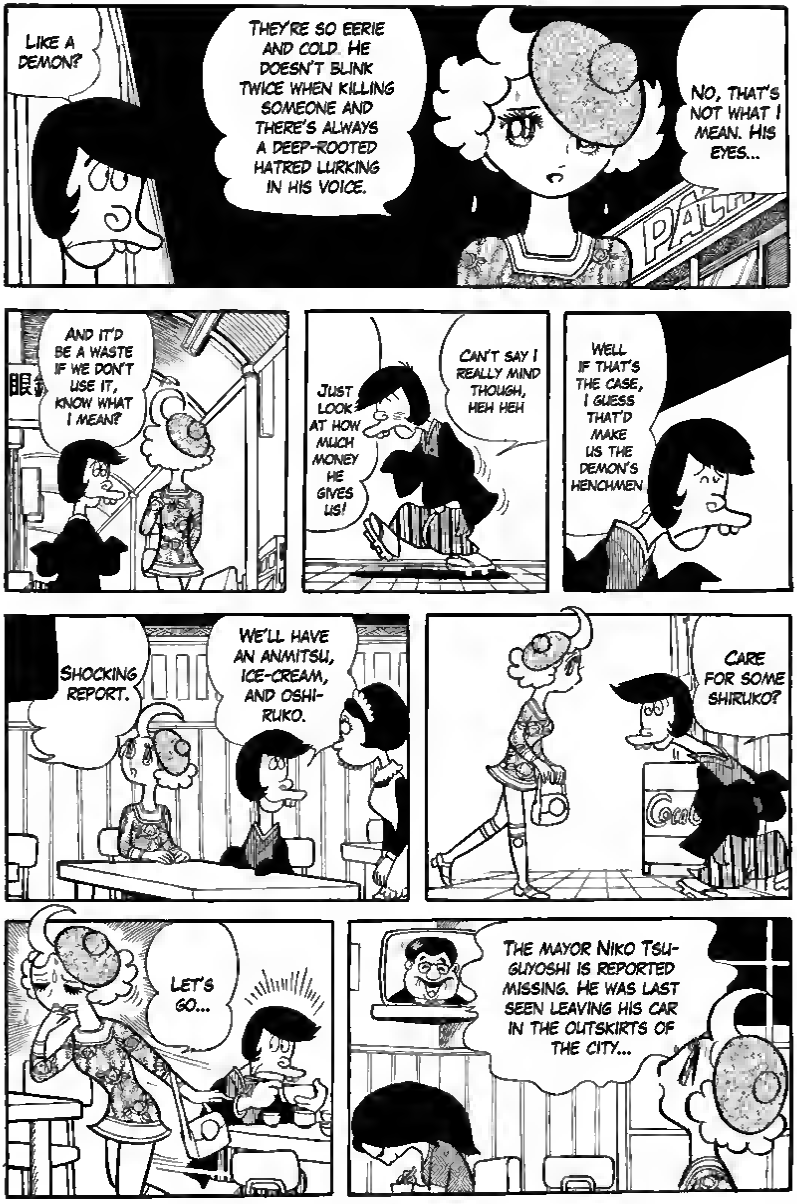

HEH HEH. WHERE SHALL WE GO, MILADY?


ALRIGHT, YOU'RE ALL DISMISSED UNTIL DAWN TOMORROW.

HEY, SANJO...


THE CITY SURE IS BIG IT'S HARD TO RELAX WITH SO MANY PEOPLE MURMURING.
THEY MUST'VE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE MAYOR'S ABDUCTION BY NOW

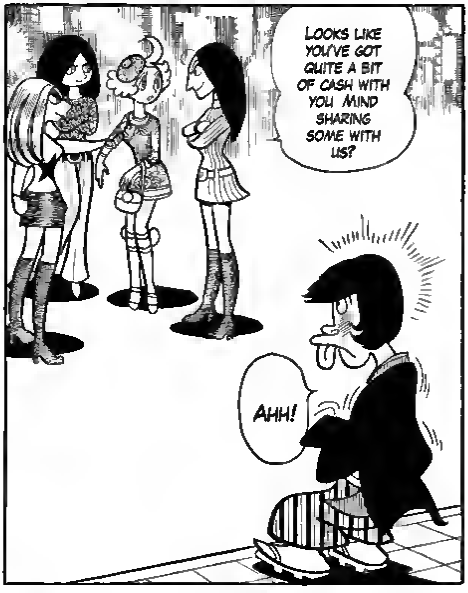

I'M SCARED OF ALABASTER...
YES, HE IS QUITE INTIMIDATING.

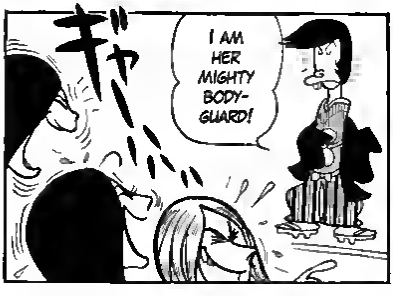

LIKE A DEMON?
THEY'RE SO EERIE AND COLD. HE DOESN'T BLINK TWICE WHEN KILLING SOMEONE AND THERE'S ALWAYS A DEEP-ROOTED HATRED LURKING IN HIS VOICE.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. HIS EYES...
AND IT'D BE A WASTE IF WE DON'T USE IT, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
JUST LOOK AT HOW MUCH MONEY HE GIVES US!
CAN'T SAY I REALLY MIND THOUGH, HEH HEH
WELL IF THAT'S THE CASE, I GUESS THAT'D MAKE US THE DEMON'S HENCHMEN
SHOCKING REPORT.
WE'LL HAVE AN ANMITSU, ICE-CREAM, AND OSHI-RUKO.
CARE FOR SOME SHIRUKO?
LET'S GO...
THE MAYOR NIKO TSU-GUYOSHI IS REPORTED MISSING. HE WAS LAST SEEN LEAVING HIS CAR IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...

THANK YOU, PLEASE COME AGAIN.

HEY, WAIT!
WE CAN'T JUST LET ALL THIS DESSERT GO TO WASTE!

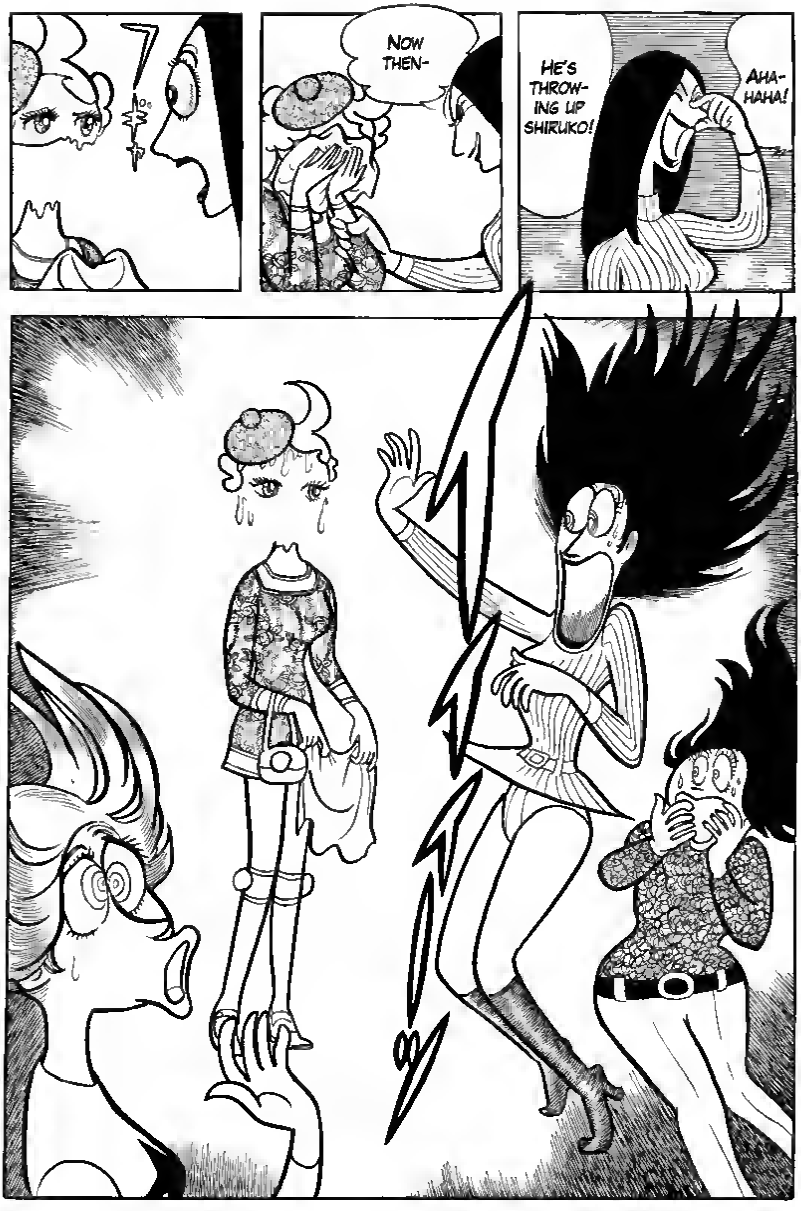
WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?
TALK ABOUT THICK MAKE-UP!
DON'T GET ANY WISE IDEAS AND JUST HAND OVER THE MONEY IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU...

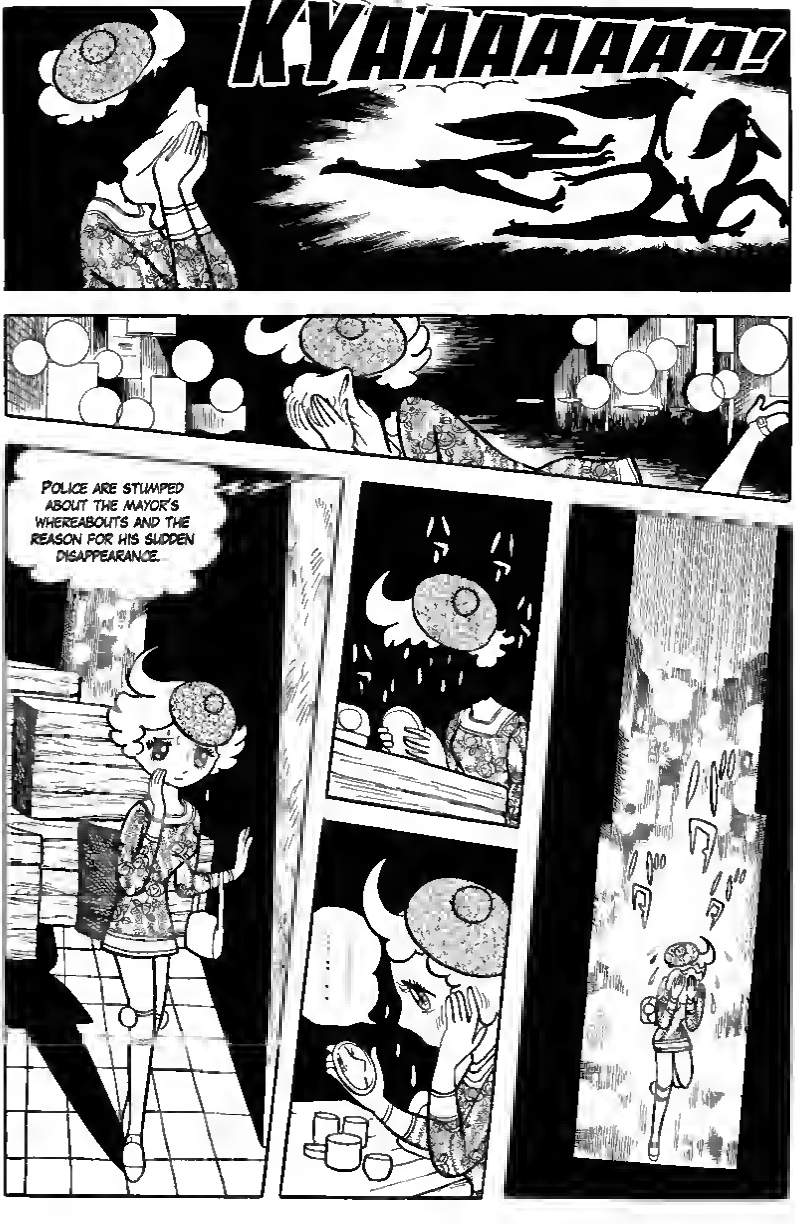

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT QUITE A BIT OF CASH WITH YOU MIND SHARING SOME WITH US?
AHH!

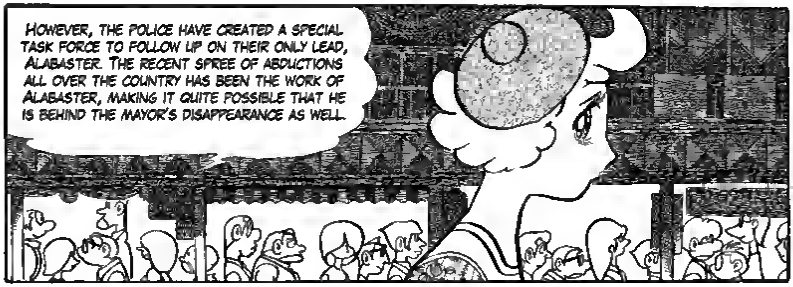

I AM HER MIGHTY BODY-GUARD!

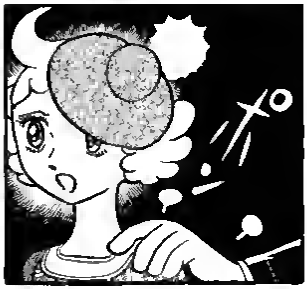
WHAT?
YOU GIRLS THERE! I INSIST YOU STOP ROUGH-HOUSING MY POOR GIRL!

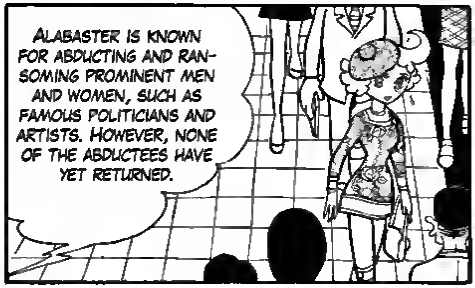
PLINK! (SFX)
FLICK! (SFX)
D-DON'T YOU MAKE A FOOL OF ME!
TAKE THIS!
*TRADITIONAL CHANT SUNG IN THE BEAN-THROWING FESTIVAL, SETSUBUN.
SHOO, DEMONS! COME THIS WAY, LUCK!*
UHHH, TAKE THIS!
HUURRL! (SFX)


!
NOW THEN-
HE'S THROWING UP SHIRUKO!
AHA-HAHA!


KYAAAAAAA!
POLICE ARE STUMPED ABOUT THE MAYOR'S WHEREABOUTS AND THE REASON FOR HIS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE.
.....

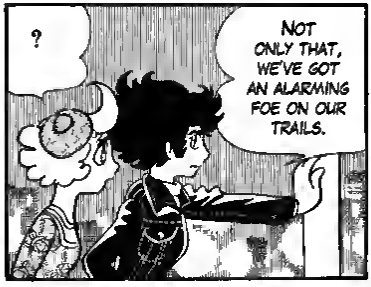

HOWEVER, THE POLICE HAVE CREATED A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO FOLLOW UP ON THEIR ONLY LEAD, ALABASTER. THE RECENT SPREE OF ABDUCTIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN THE WORK OF ALABASTER, MAKING IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE IS BEHIND THE MAYOR'S DISAPPEARANCE AS WELL.



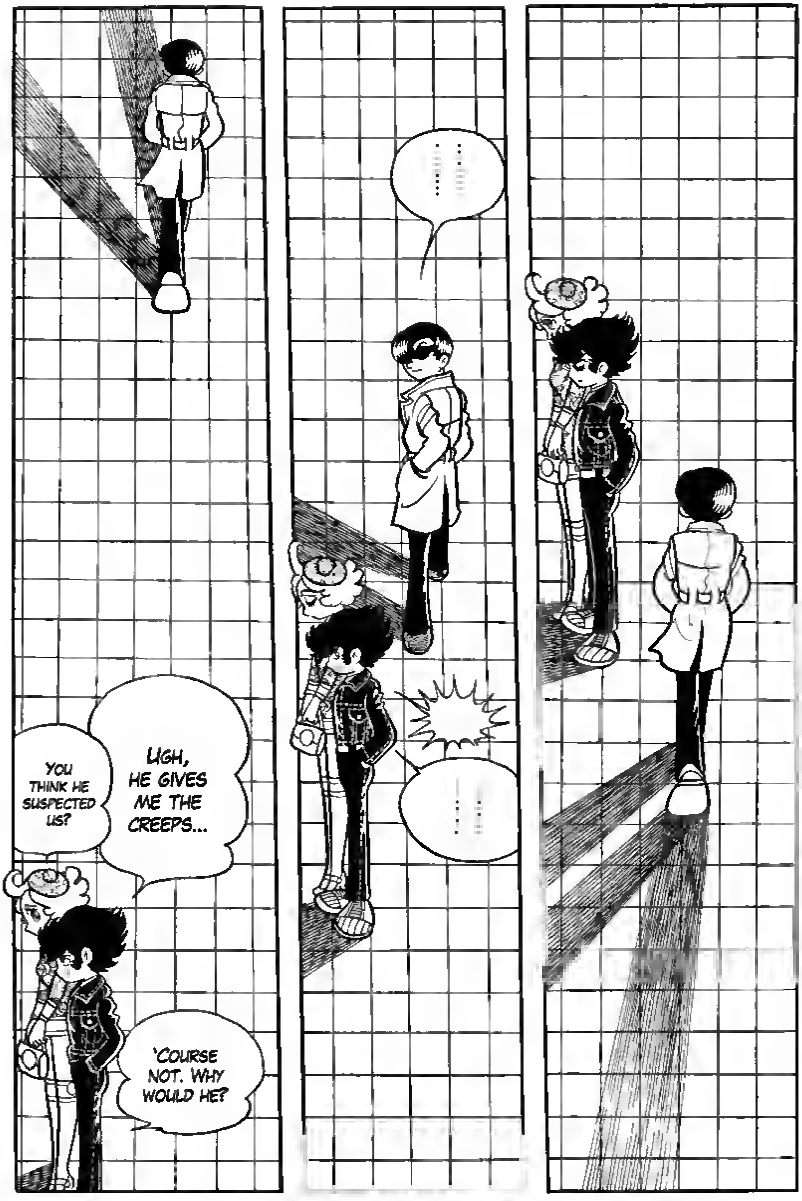

ALABASTER IS KNOWN FOR ABDUCTING AND RANSOMING PROMINENT MEN AND WOMEN, SUCH AS FAMOUS POLITICIANS AND ARTISTS. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE ABDUCTEES HAVE YET RETURNED.

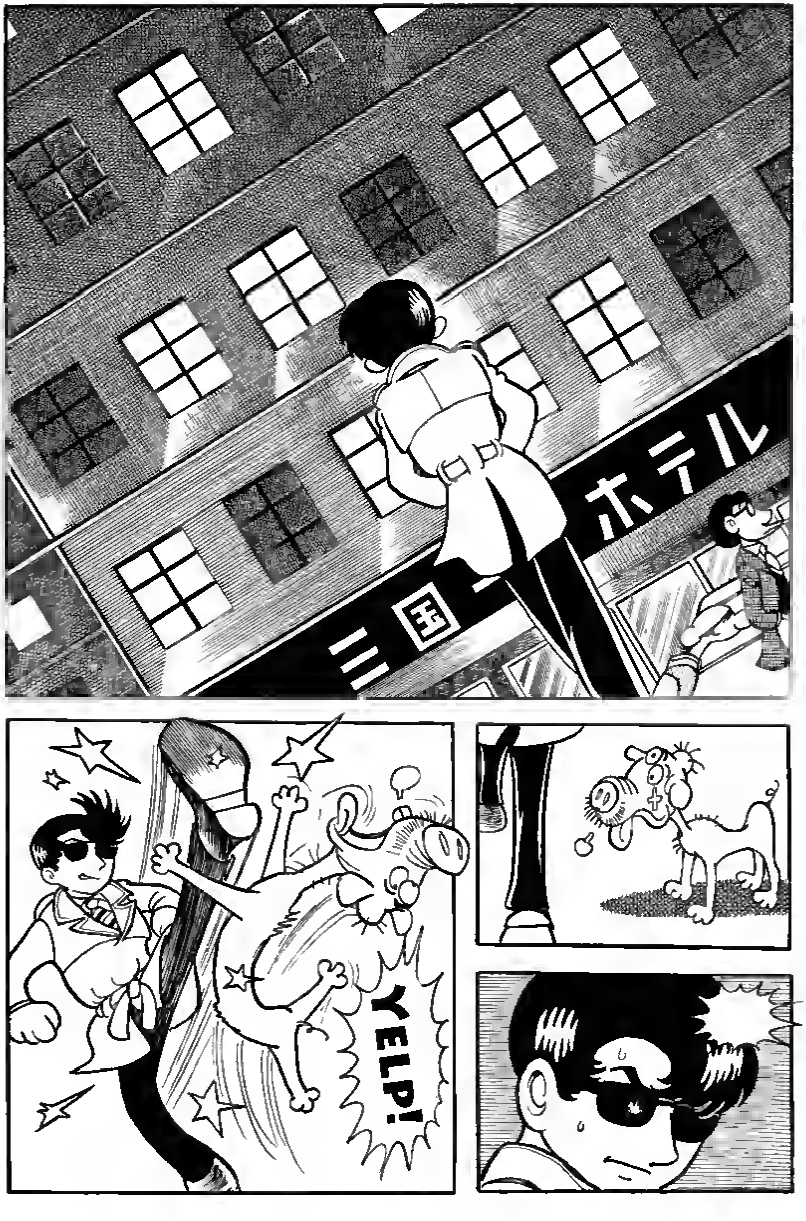
RIGHT...
THE POLICE ARE KEEPING A SHARP EYE OUT.
WELL IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE OUT ALONE, YOU KNOW.

HE WAS BEATEN UP BY SOME THUGS AND WE GOT SEPARATED.
WHY'RE YOU WALKING ALONE? WHERE'S SANJO?


?
NOT ONLY THAT, WE'VE GOT AN ALARMING FOE ON OUR TRAILS.

IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE OUT THAT HIS JOB'S TO CATCH US.
HE'S SAID TO BE THE FBI'S TRUMP CARD.
HIS NAME'S ROCK HOLMES THE JAPANESE POLICE HAVE CALLED HIM OVER FROM AMERICA FOR HELP.
WHO IS IT?
OH CRAP, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL! HE'S WALKING THIS WAY!
BUT HE'S-
FROM HIS PHOTO, HE'S STILL JUST A SQUIRT BARELY IN HIS 20s.
HE'S A FOREIGNER?
JUST ACT COOL AND LOOK AWAY. DON'T LET HIM SEE YOUR FACE.


UGH, HE GIVES ME THE CREEPS...
YOU THINK HE SUSPECTED US?
'COURSE NOT. WHY WOULD HE?
.....
.....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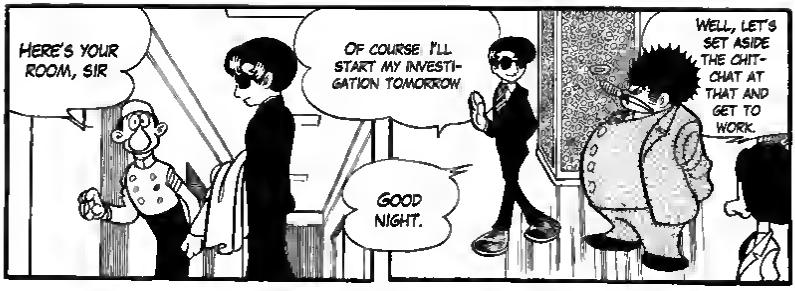
YELP!

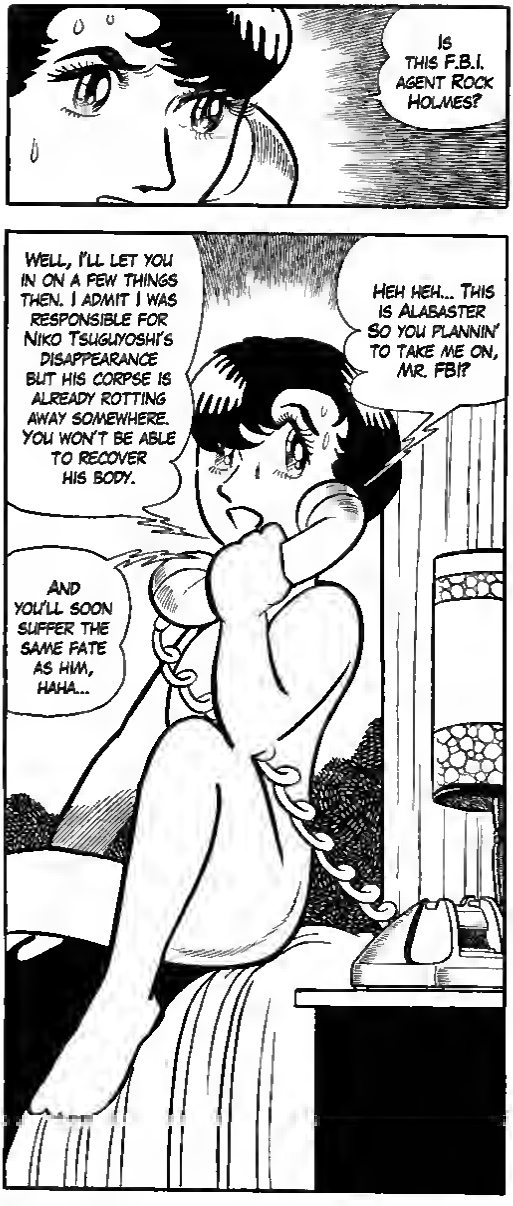
GO TOSS THAT MANGY MUTT SOMEWHERE ELSE. IT'S AN EYESORE.
HOW DO YOU DO?
I'M THE CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS.
AH, MR. HOLMES A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
NICE TO M-
THIS MAN HERE IS THE ACTING MAYOR.
SOMEONE STOP THIS RECORD!
I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN TRACKING ALABASTER EVEN BACK IN AMERICA.

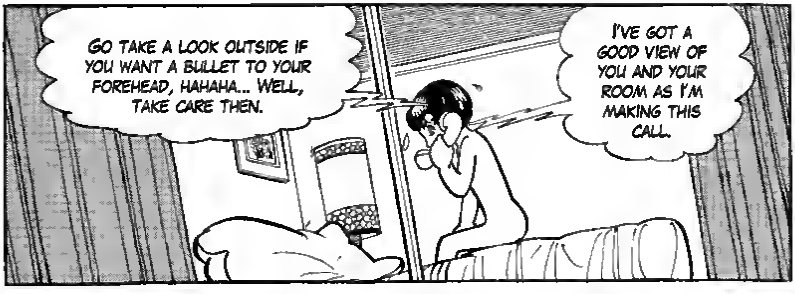
YES, I LOATHE BEETHOVEN...
THAT'S UMM...
YOU DISLIKE BEETH-OVEN?
YOU THERE! STOP THIS INCESSANT BEETHOVEN PIECE!
I'M QUITE PARTICULAR ABOUT FACES, YOU SEE...
IT'S NOT THAT I HATE HIS MUSIC BUT IT REMINDS ME OF HIS MISERABLE COW-LIKE FACE.
THINGS LIKE BIG NOSES OR FAT LIPS SICKEN ME!
A HARSH CRITIC, AREN'T YOU?
SANPAKU EYES AND BUCKTEETH ARE EQUALLY VULGAR... I ESPECIALLY DESPISE JAPANESE FACES.
NO, DON'T WORRY. HE'S NOT TALKING DIRECTLY ABOUT YOU.
UMM... PARDON ME, SIR...

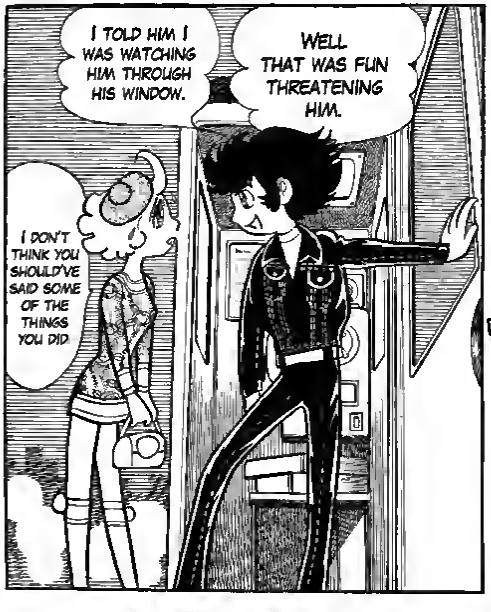
OF COURSE THE SAME APPLIES FOR AFRICANS, INDIANS, AND ARABS.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT'S NOT JUST JAPANESE FACES I HATE. I ALSO DETEST ANGLO-SAXONS, ITALIANS AND SLAVS.
THE ONLY RESPECTABLE RACE ARE THE NOBLE GREEKS,
AS THEY ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE GODS OF MT. OLYMPUS.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I'M ALSO GREEK MYSELF.

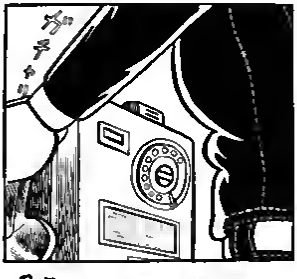

HERE'S YOUR ROOM, SIR
OF COURSE I'LL START MY INVESTIGATION TOMORROW
GOOD NIGHT.
WELL, LET'S SET ASIDE THE CHIT-CHAT AT THAT AND GET TO WORK.

AHH...
カチャリ
ALABASTER! TO THINK I'D FACE OFF AGAINST HIM ALL THE WAY OVER IN JAPAN...
I AM BEAUTI-FUL...


IS THIS F.B.I. AGENT ROCK HOLMES?
HEH HEH... THIS IS ALABASTER SO YOU PLANNIN' TO TAKE ME ON, MR. FBI?
WELL, I'LL LET YOU IN ON A FEW THINGS THEN. I ADMIT I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR NIKO TSUGUYOSHI'S DISAPPEARANCE BUT HIS CORPSE IS ALREADY ROTTING AWAY SOMEWHERE. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOVER HIS BODY.
AND YOU'LL SOON SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS HIM, HAHA...
WHEN I DO THIS,
I FEEL PURE BLISS,
THROUGH-OUT EVERY INCH OF MY BOY...


GO TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE IF YOU WANT A BULLET TO YOUR FOREHEAD, HAHAHA... WELL, TAKE CARE THEN.
I'VE GOT A GOOD VIEW OF YOU AND YOUR ROOM AS I'M MAKING THIS CALL.


I TOLD HIM I WAS WATCHING HIM THROUGH HIS WINDOW.
WELL THAT WAS FUN THREATENING HIM.
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SOME OF THE THINGS YOU DID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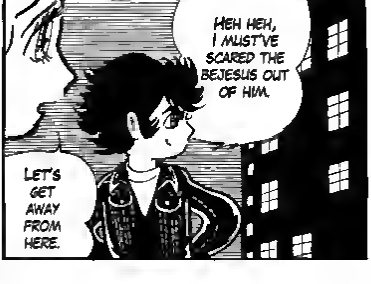
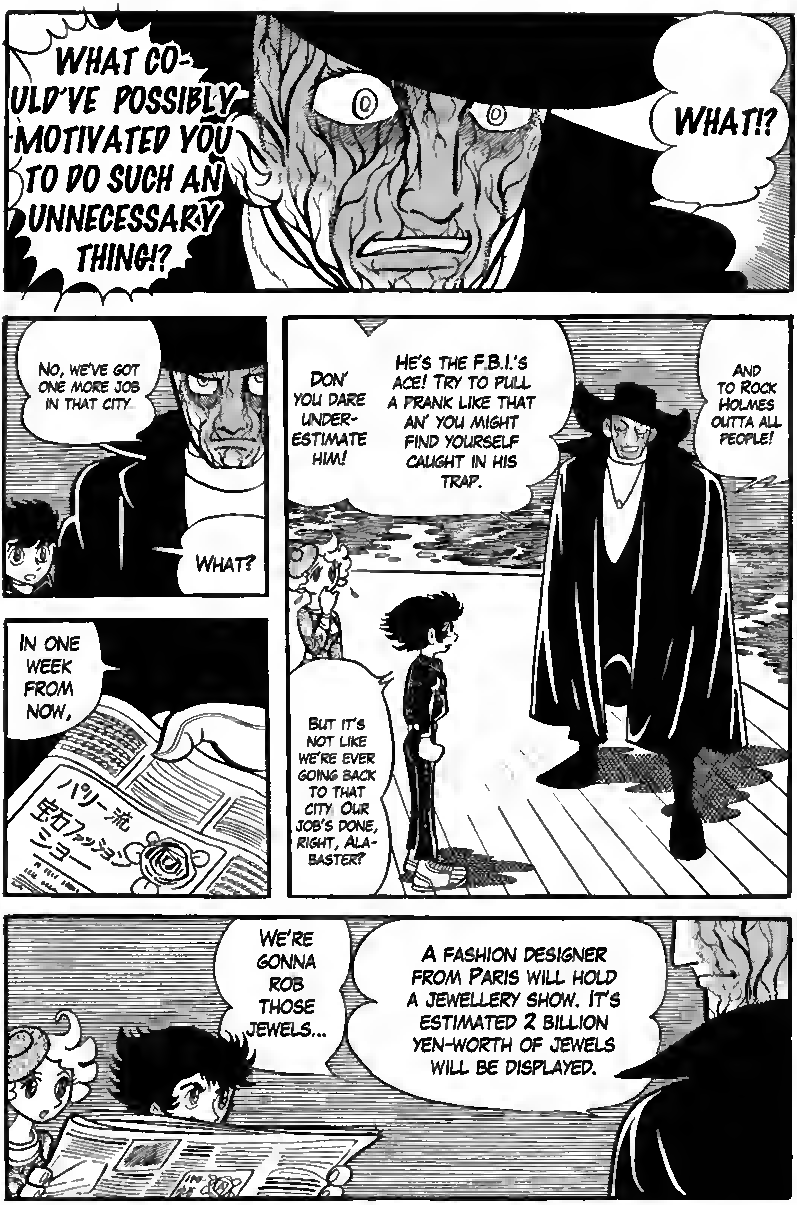
YOU NEVER KNOW IF SOMEONE MIGHT BE TAILING US THOUGH
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF THE CITY AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE EVER COMING BACK HERE AGAIN.


HEH HEH, I MUST'VE SCARED THE BEJESUS OUT OF HIM.
LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE.

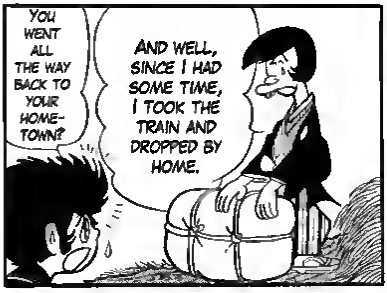
DON'T WORRY, I'M WITH YOU.
AMI... LET'S GET MARRIED SOMEDAY...
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO HOLD YOU CLOSE LIKE THIS SO I KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE.
BUT, I CAN'T HELP BEING INVISIBLE.
AND THAT'S THE AMI I LOVE AS WELL... I DON'T WANT THE AMI WHO TURNS INVISIBLE AND HIDES HER BEAUTIFUL SELF TO ME.
AMI, LISTEN TO ME. YOU LOOK BEST HOW YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.
I GUESS I COULD ALWAYS WIPE MY MAKEUP OFF AND RUN IF I'M IN DANGER.


WHAT CO-ULD'VE POSSIBLY MOTIVATED YOU TO DO SUCH AN UNNECESSARY THING!?
WHAT!?
NO, WE'VE GOT ONE MORE JOB IN THAT CITY.
WHAT?
DON' YOU DARE UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM!
HE'S THE F.B.I.'s ACE! TRY TO PULL A PRANK LIKE THAT AN' YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF CAUGHT IN HIS TRAP.
AND TO ROCK HOLMES OUTTA ALL PEOPLE!
IN ONE WEEK FROM NOW,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE EVER GOING BACK TO THAT CITY. OUR JOB'S DONE, RIGHT, ALA-BASTER?
WE'RE GONNA ROB THOSE JEWELS...
A FASHION DESIGNER FROM PARIS WILL HOLD A JEWELLERY SHOW. IT'S ESTIMATED 2 BILLION YEN-WORTH OF JEWELS WILL BE DISPLAYED.

ABDUCT THE "BEAUTIFUL" SHOW MODELS,
AND DISFIGURE THEM ALL INTO A WRETCHED SIGHT!
OF COURSE, AND HE'LL BE WAITING FOR ME TO COME TO THAT SHOW.
HE'S CHALLENGING ME, DON'T YOU SEE?
BUT THAT'S CRAZY!
ROCK'S GONNA BE WATCHING OVER THE CITY LIKE A HAWK!
IS SANJO STILL NOT BACK YET?
SANJO!
IN ANY CASE, WE'LL RETURN BACK TO THE CASTLE AND FORM A PLAN.
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU!?
SANJOOOO!

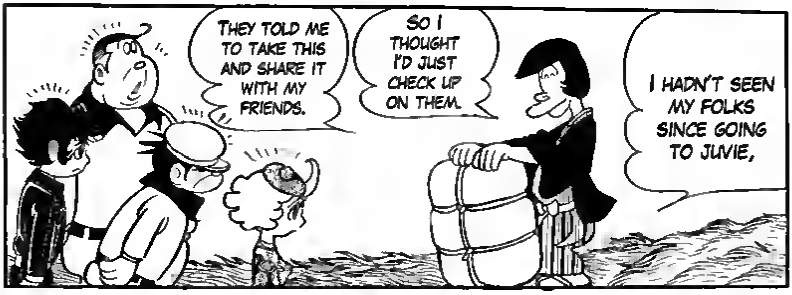
YEAH I KNOW... BUT WE ACCIDENTALLY GOT SEPARATED.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AMI'S ESCORT!

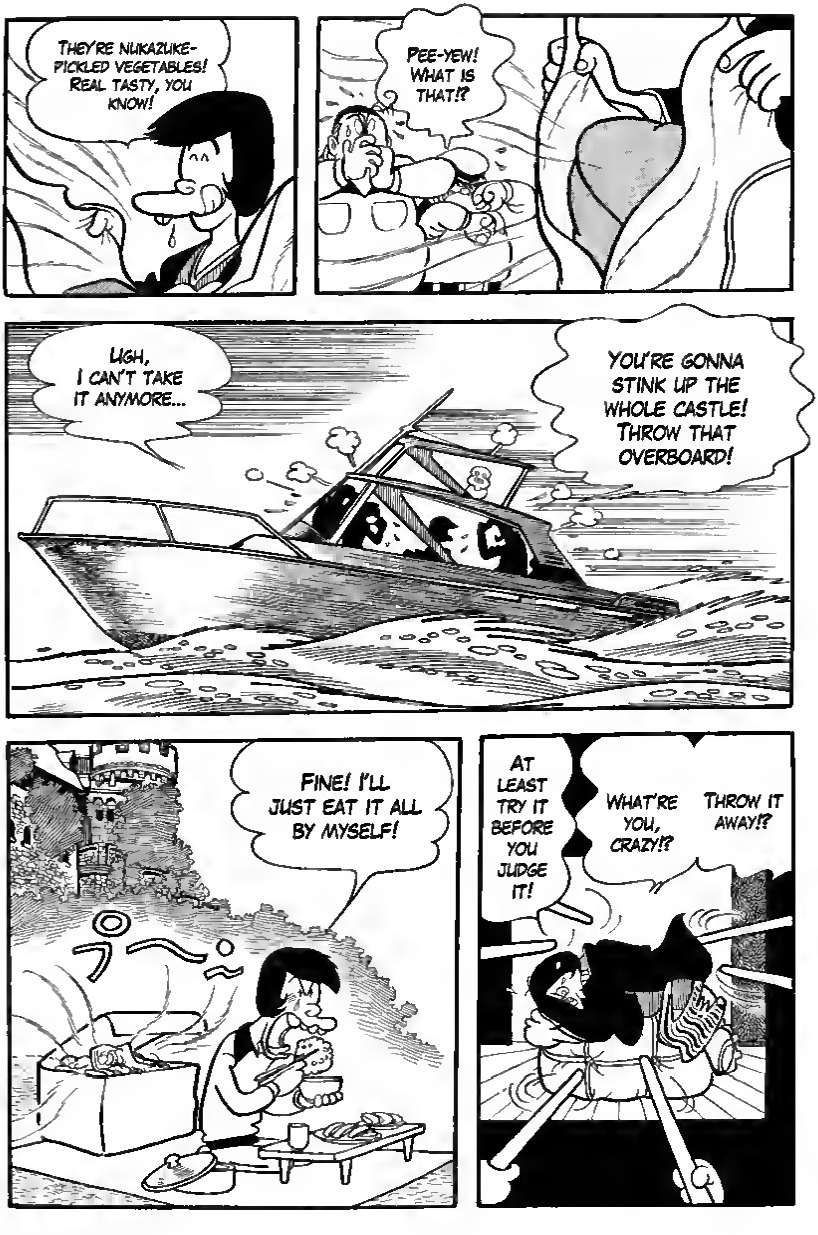
YO.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE, YOU DUMBASS!


YOU WENT ALL THE WAY BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN?
AND WELL, SINCE I HAD SOME TIME, I TOOK THE TRAIN AND DROPPED BY HOME.

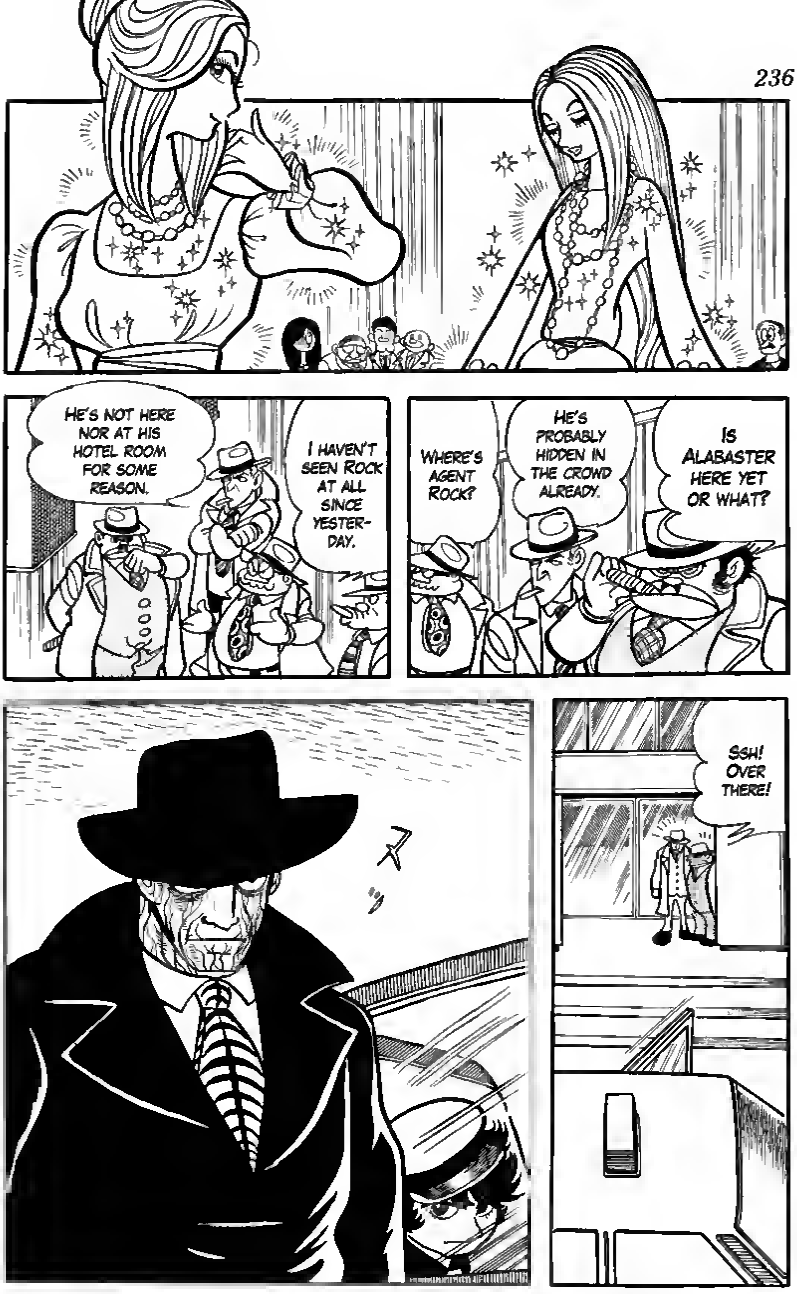
DON'T WORRY. SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL, SPEAK NO EVIL, YADDA YADDA.

YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT US, DID YOU!?

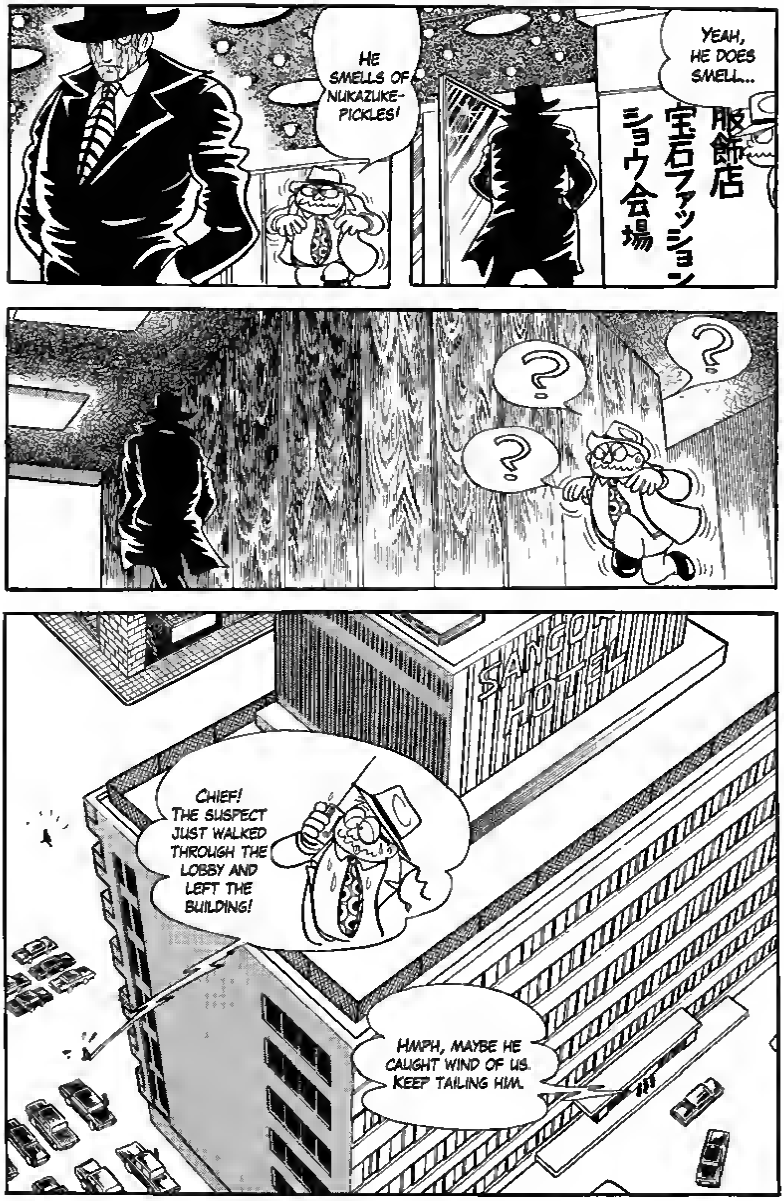

THEY TOLD ME TO TAKE THIS AND SHARE IT WITH MY FRIENDS.
SO I THOUGHT I'D JUST CHECK UP ON THEM.
I HADN'T SEEN MY FOLKS SINCE GOING TO JUVIE,

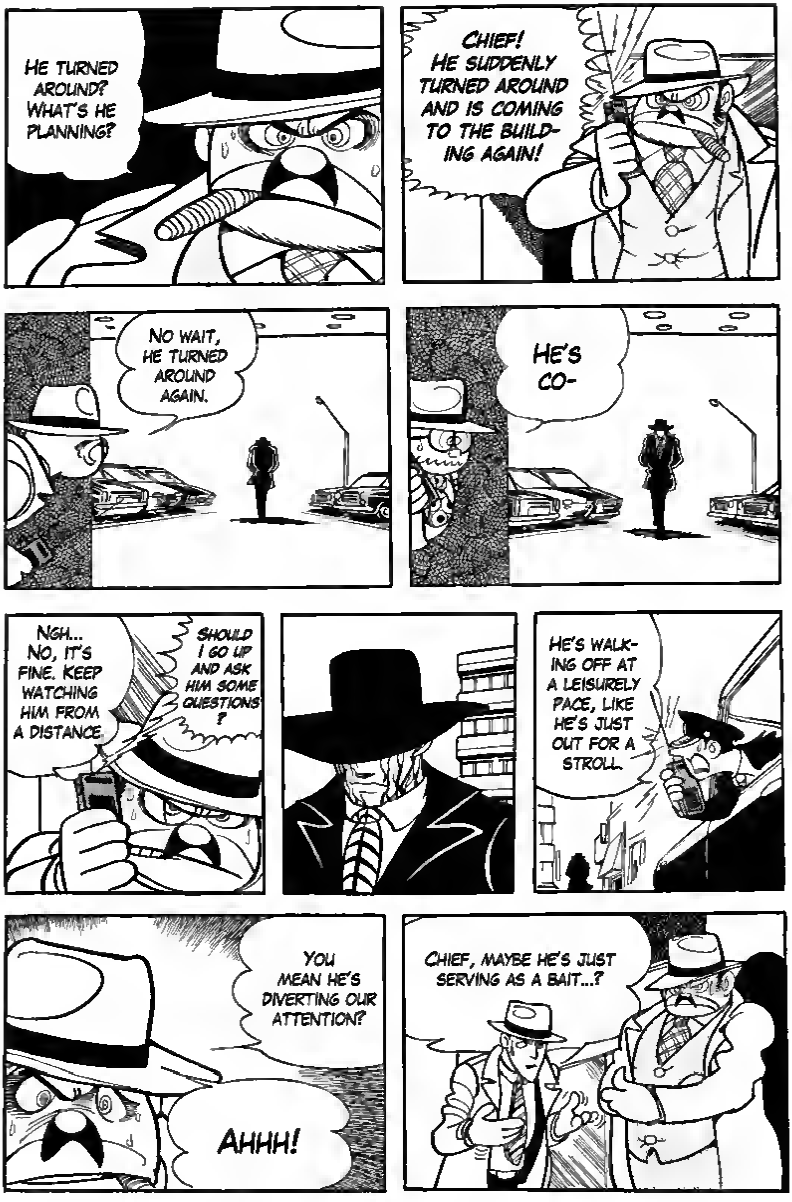

THEY'RE NUKAZUKE-PICKLED VEGETABLES! REAL TASTY, YOU KNOW!
PEE-YEW! WHAT IS THAT!?
UGH, I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
YOU'RE GONNA STINK UP THE WHOLE CASTLE! THROW THAT OVERBOARD!
FINE! I'LL JUST EAT IT ALL BY MYSELF!
AT LEAST TRY IT BEFORE YOU JUDGE IT!
WHAT'RE YOU, CRAZY!?
THROW IT AWAY!?

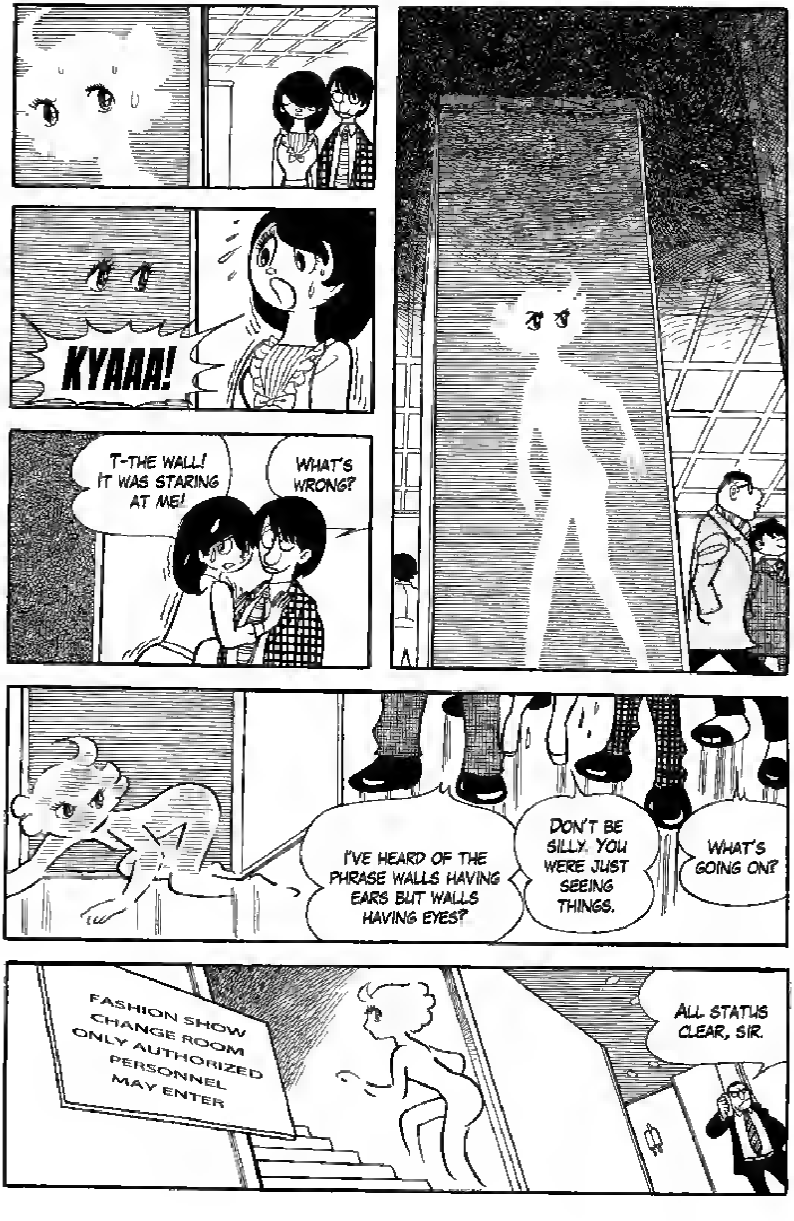
AN EVENING-DRESS DESIGNED BY LAVE OF DARMISED BOUTIQUE.


HE'S NOT HERE NOR AT HIS HOTEL ROOM FOR SOME REASON.
I HAVEN'T SEEN ROCK AT ALL SINCE YESTER-DAY.
WHERE'S AGENT ROCK?
HE'S PROBABLY HIDDEN IN THE CROWD ALREADY.
IS ALABASTER HERE YET OR WHAT?
SSH! OVER THERE!

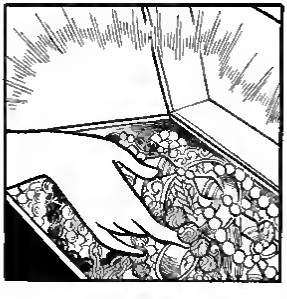
I ASSUME THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, RIGHT, GEN?
YOU BET.
BUT LET'S KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM. I SMELL SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT HIM.
I-IS HE REALLY ALABASTER?
THAT IS ONE REPULSIVE-LOOKING MAN..
I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE,

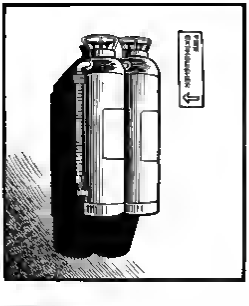

YEAH, HE DOES SMELL...
HE SMELLS OF NUKAZUKE-PICKLES!
服飾店
宝石ファッション
ショウ会場
?
?
?
SANGOKU HOTEL
CHIEF! THE SUSPECT JUST WALKED THROUGH THE LOBBY AND LEFT THE BUILDING!
HMPH, MAYBE HE CAUGHT WIND OF US. KEEP TAILING HIM.

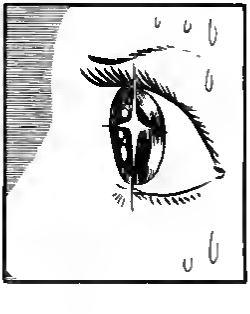

HE TURNED AROUND? WHAT'S HE PLANNING?
CHIEF! HE SUDDENLY TURNED AROUND AND IS COMING TO THE BUILDING AGAIN!
NO WAIT, HE TURNED AROUND AGAIN.
HE'S CO-
NGH... NO, IT'S FINE. KEEP WATCHING HIM FROM A DISTANCE.
SHOULD I GO UP AND ASK HIM SOME QUESTIONS?
HE'S WALKING OFF AT A LEISURELY PACE, LIKE HE'S JUST OUT FOR A STROLL.
YOU MEAN HE'S DIVERTING OUR ATTENTION?
AHHH!
CHIEF, MAYBE HE'S JUST SERVING AS A BAIT...?

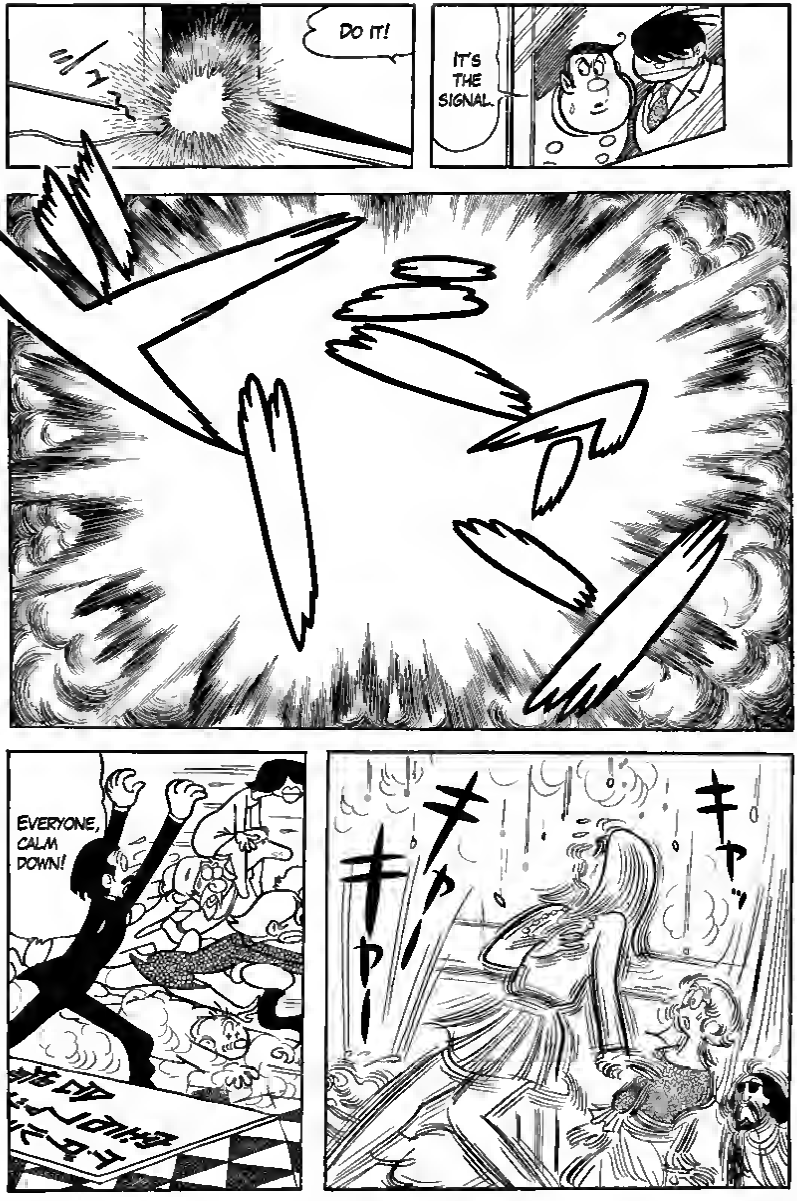

KYAAA!
T-THE WALL! IT WAS STARING AT ME!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'VE HEARD OF THE PHRASE WALLS HAVING EARS BUT WALLS HAVING EYES?
DON'T BE SILLY. YOU WERE JUST SEEING THINGS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
FASHION SHOW CHANGE ROOM ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL MAY ENTER
ALL STATUS CLEAR, SIR.

FEMALE DETECTIVES








DO IT!
IT'S THE SIGNAL.
EVERYONE, CALM DOWN!
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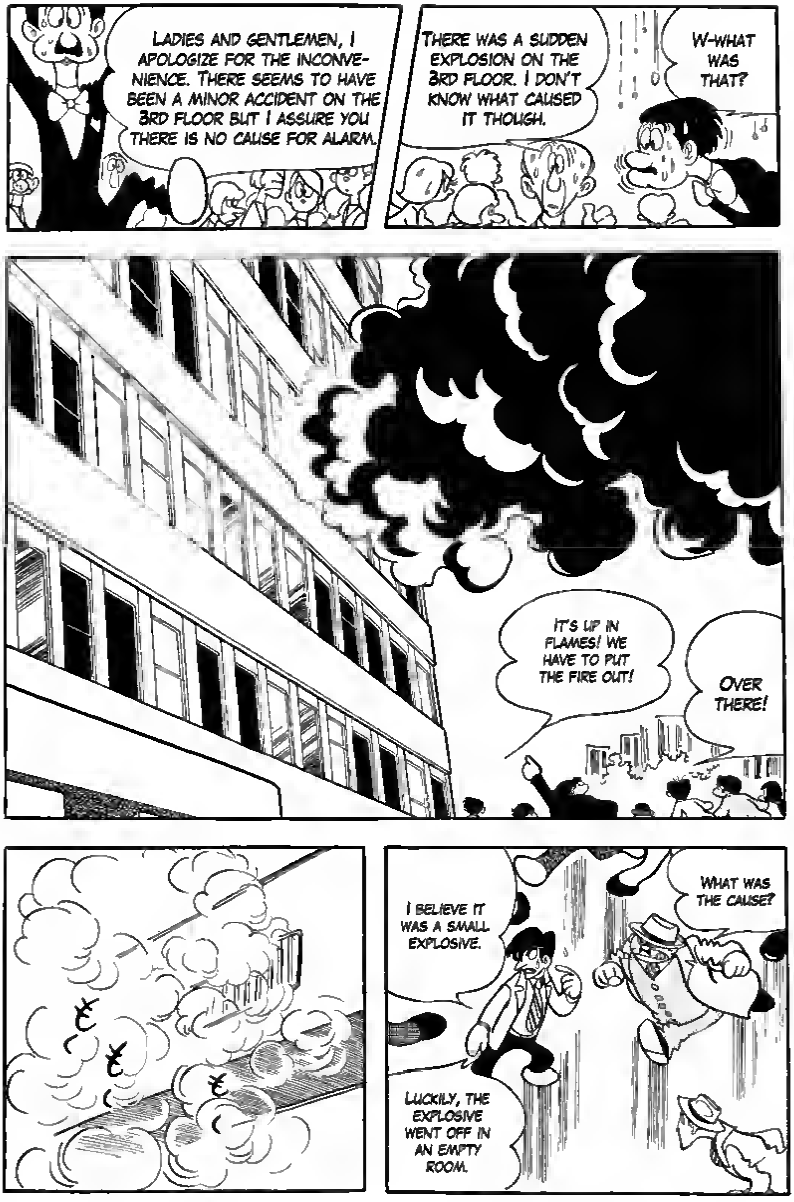
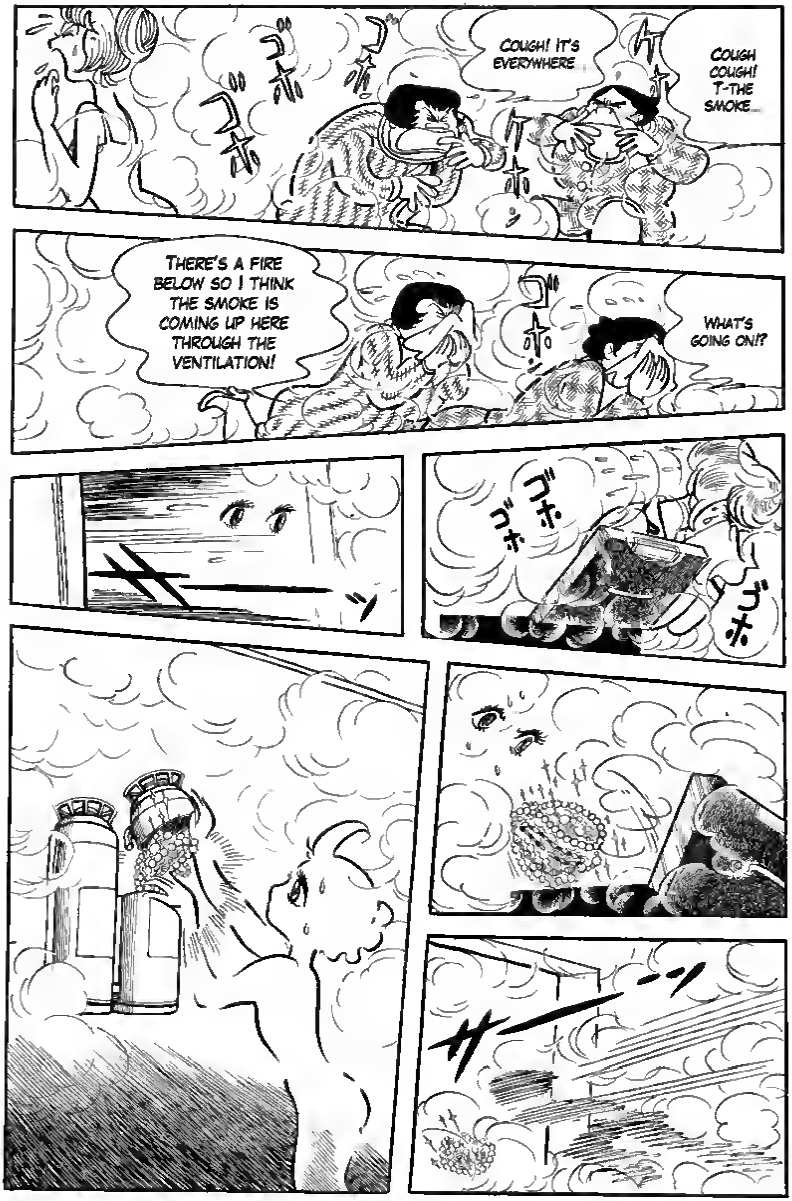

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE. THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A MINOR ACCIDENT ON THE 3RD FLOOR BUT I ASSURE YOU THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.
THERE WAS A SUDDEN EXPLOSION ON THE 3RD FLOOR. I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT THOUGH.
W-WHAT WAS THAT?
IT'S UP IN FLAMES! WE HAVE TO PUT THE FIRE OUT!
OVER THERE!
I BELIEVE IT WAS A SMALL EXPLOSIVE.
WHAT WAS THE CAUSE?
LUCKILY, THE EXPLOSIVE WENT OFF IN AN EMPTY ROOM.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COUGH! IT'S EVERYWHERE...
COUGH COUGH! T-THE SMOKE...
THERE'S A FIRE BELOW SO I THINK THE SMOKE IS COMING UP HERE THROUGH THE VENTILATION!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
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IT'S A FIRE! A FIRE, I TELL YA!
THERE'S A FIRE UPSTAIRS!
COUGH COUGH. WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M TAKING OUT THE EMERGENCY FIRE EXTINGUISHER!
NICE ONE, AMI.
あーッ
I LOOKED AWAY TO WIPE MY EYES FOR JUST ONE SECOND BUT THEY'VE ALL VANISHED!
THE JEWELS ARE GONE!

HERE'S THE EXTIN-GUISHER.
PASS IT OVER.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO STAY HERE! PLEASE EVACUATE THE BUILDING,
MODELS!
AND ENTER THIS CAR...

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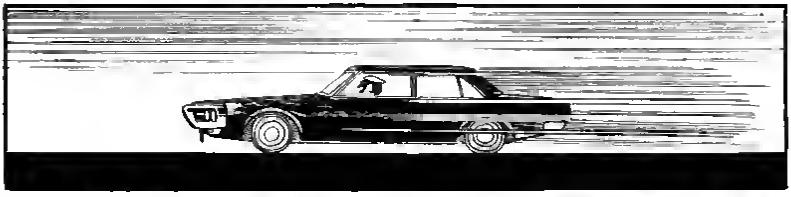
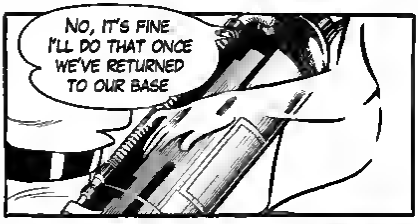
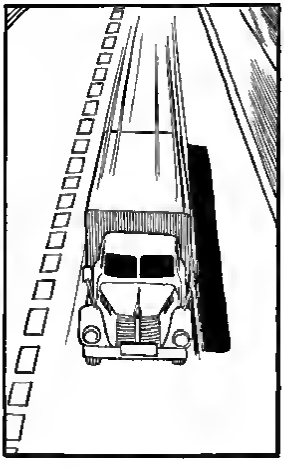


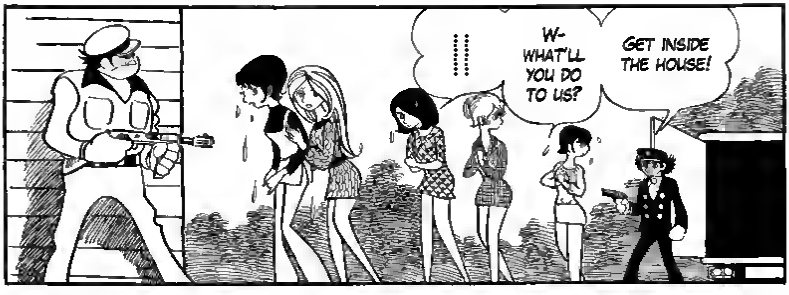

NO, IT'S FINE
I'LL DO THAT ONCE WE'VE RETURNED TO OUR BASE

MUST'VE BEEN COLD, RIGHT? HURRY UP AND PUT SOME CLOTHES ON.

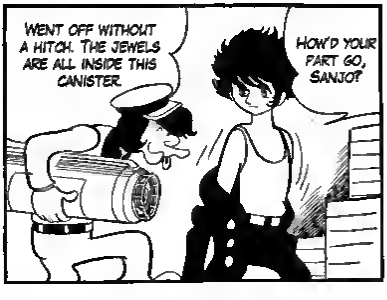
UNTIL HELL, M'DEARS.

HOW FAR DO WE HAVE TO EVACUATE TO?




GET INSIDE THE HOUSE!
W-WHAT'LL YOU DO TO US?
.....

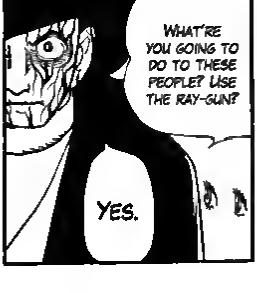
Y'THINK WE COULD JUST LET THESE POOR GIRLS OFF THE HOOK SINCE WE HAVE THE JEWELS.
NO CAN DO. THEY'VE SEEN OUR FACES.


HOW'D YOUR PART GO, SANJO?
WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH. THE JEWELS ARE ALL INSIDE THIS CANISTER.

WE GOT THE JEWELS RIGHT HERE.
GOOD.

ALA-BASTER!

CAN'T YOU LET THEM GO?
NO.


WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO TO THESE PEOPLE? USE THE RAY-GUN?
YES.

YOU DONE GOOD, AMI.
ALA-BASTER...

MY NAME'S ALABASTER PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD WHAT KINDA MAN I AM?
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE LONG JOURNEY HERE, LOVELY LADIES...
A-ALA-BASTER!?
KYAAAAA!
IS TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY-THIN' I COULD DO TO MAKE YOU LOOK EVEN PRETTIER
THE REASON WHY I'VE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE TODAY,
MY, MY, EXCITED TO SEE ME, ARE YOU NOW?
SOME-BODY HELP!
PLEASE LET US GO!
WE'VE NEVER DONE ANY-THING TO YOU!
T-T-THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CON-CERN.

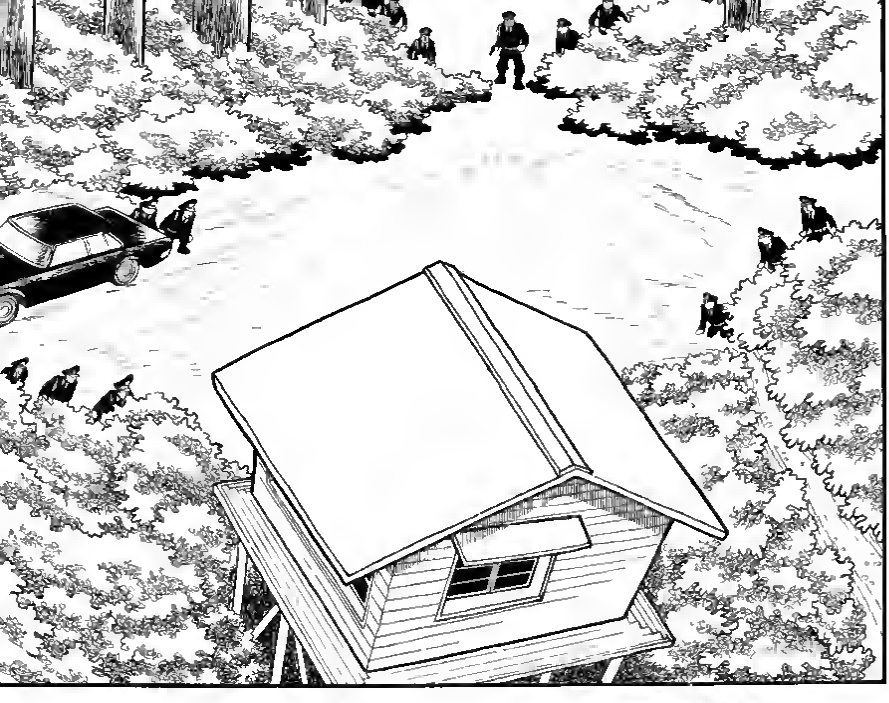
WIT' A CERTAIN RAY-GUN, THAT IS...
WHILE PONDERIN' HOW TO BEAUTIFY YOU ALL...
I REALIZED A SLIGHT FACIAL OPERATION WAS NEEDED...
IT MIGHT HURT A LITTLE BUT IN 3 MINUTES,
YOU'LL BE BORN ANEW JUST LIKE MYSELF.
SCREAMIN' AIN'T GON' CHANGE A THING.
STOP!
N-NO...
AHAHA-HAHAHA!
HAHA...

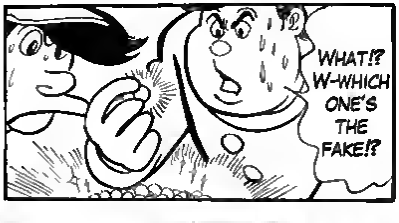
ROCK HOLMES, THE MAN YOU GAVE THAT WARM WELCOME CALL TO A COUPLE NIGHTS AGO.
HOW LUCKY I AM TO BE ABLE TO MEET YOU SO SOON..

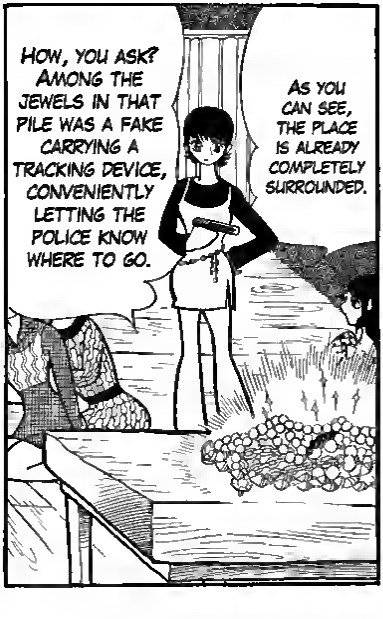
YOU'RE ROCK HOLMES !?

HOLD IT! BEFORE YOU TRY TO PULL ANY STUPID STUNTS, YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE.

THANKS FOR QUITE THE ENTERTAINING AFTERNOON.
HAHA, NOT A BAD PLAN. STARTING A FIRE TO SNEAK THE JEWELS INTO A FAKE FIRE EXTINGUISHER AND EVACUATING THE MODELS INTO YOUR HIDEOUT HERE...
W-WHO ARE YOU!?

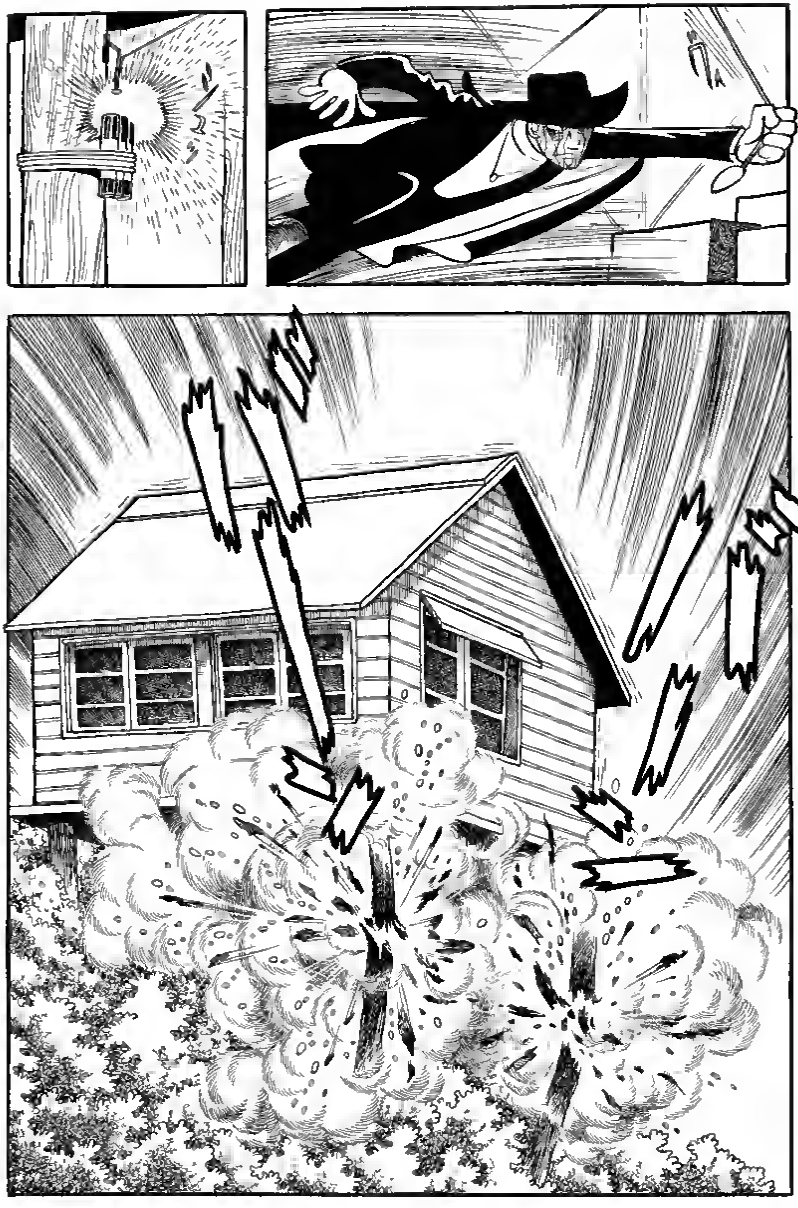


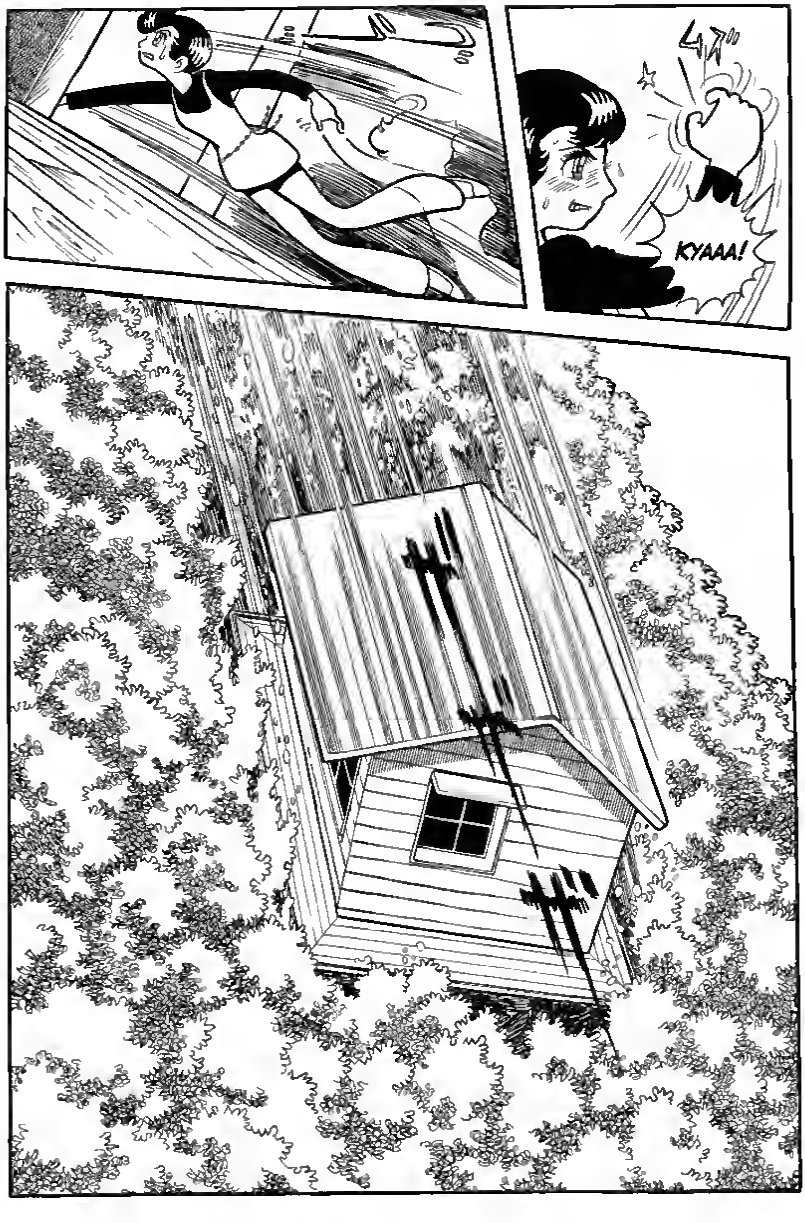

WHAT!? W-WHICH ONE'S THE FAKE!?

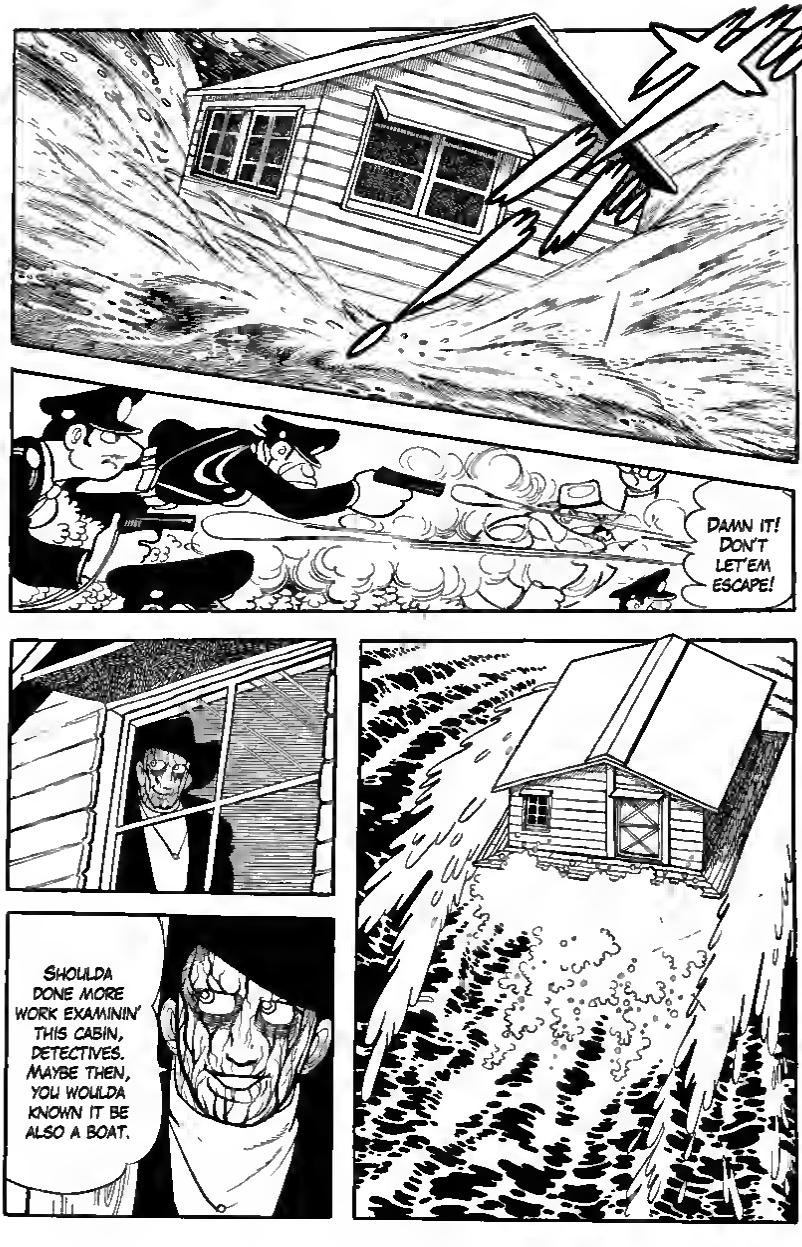

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PLACE IS ALREADY COMPLETELY SURROUNDED.
HOW, YOU ASK? AMONG THE JEWELS IN THAT PILE WAS A FAKE CARRYING A TRACKING DEVICE, CONVENIENTLY LETTING THE POLICE KNOW WHERE TO GO.

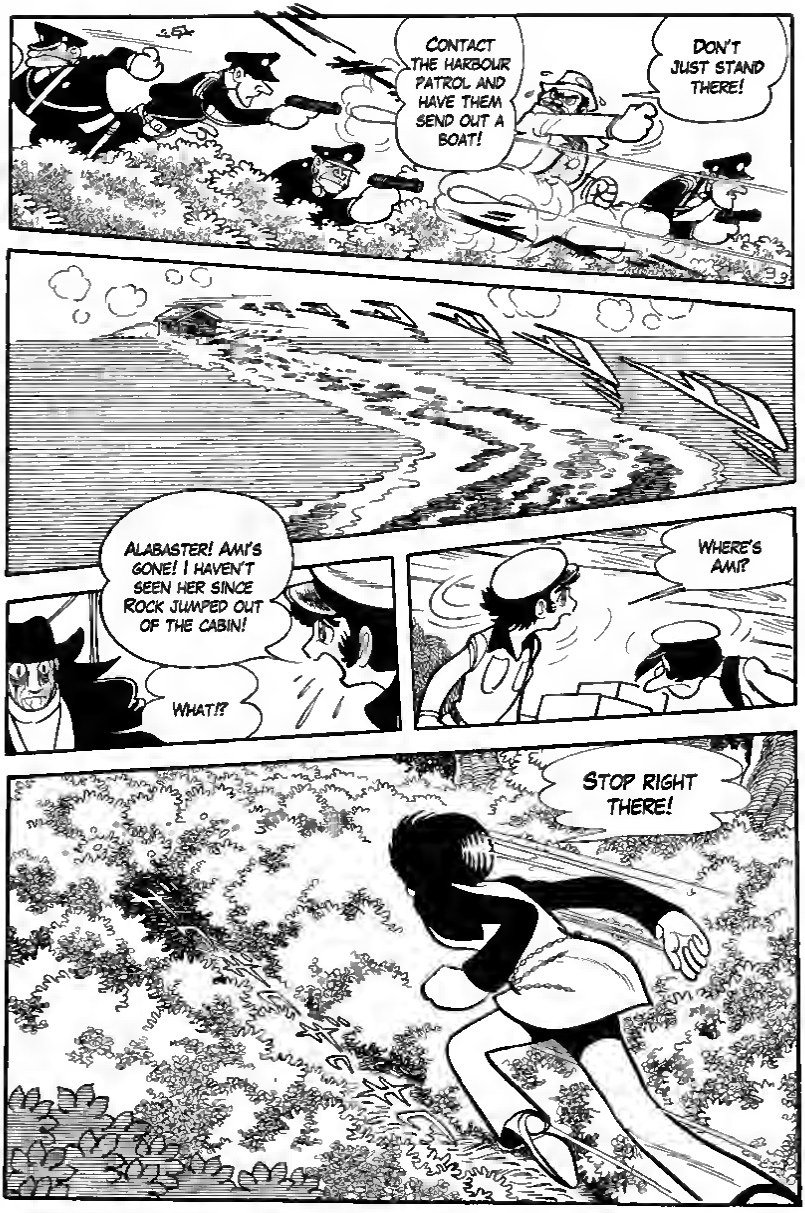
DAMMIT, IT'S AS HE SAID! THERE'S A TRACKING DEVICE INSIDE!
AHH! I FOUND IT!
HAHA... RESISTANCE IS FUTILE SO I SUGGEST YOU RAISE YOUR ARMS AND SLOWLY WALK OUTSIDE.

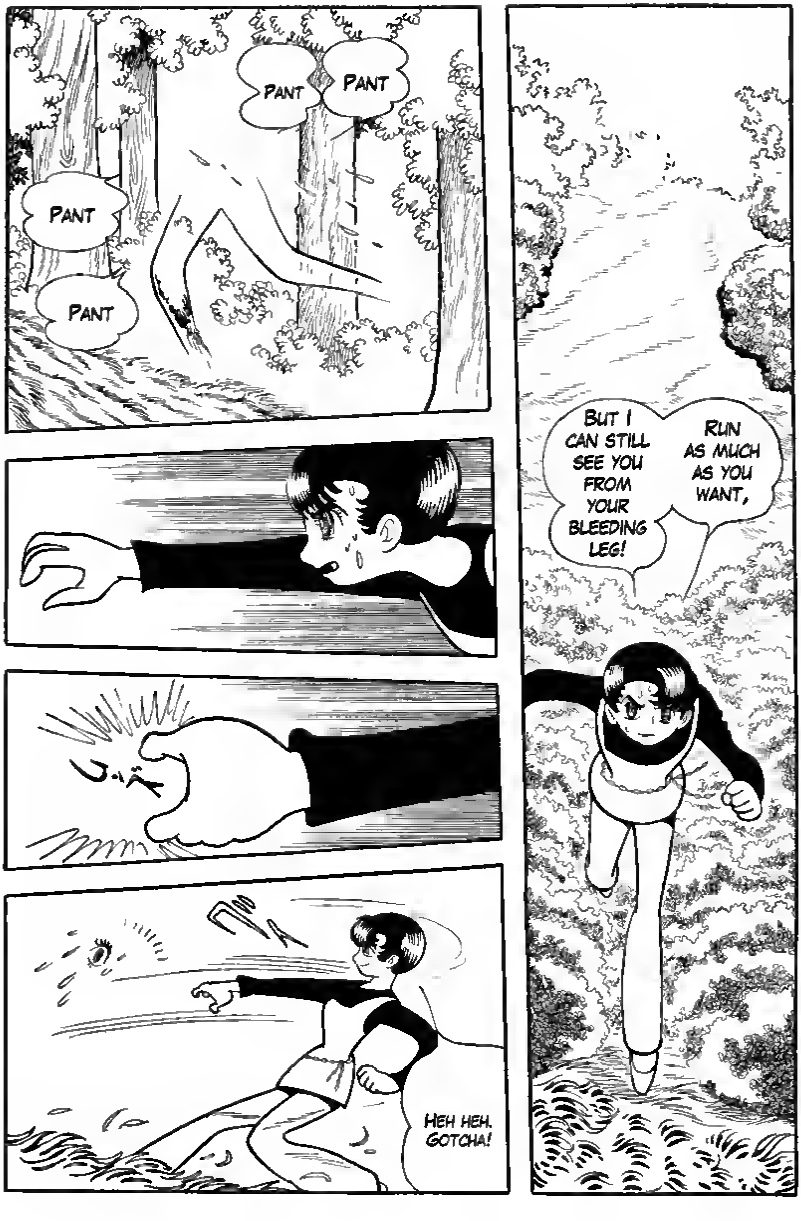
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
PSST, AMI! GO!
AGHH!




KYAAA!


DAMN IT! DON'T LET'EM ESCAPE!
SHOULDA DONE MORE WORK EXAMININ' THIS CABIN, DETECTIVES. MAYBE THEN, YOU WOULDA KNOWN IT BE ALSO A BOAT.

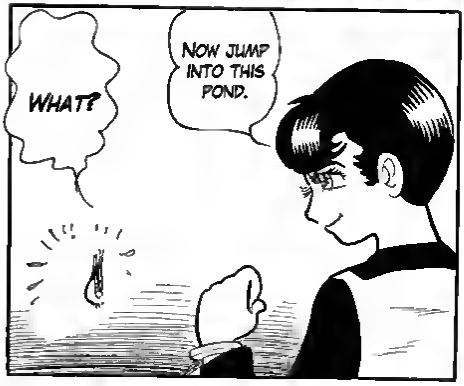

CONTACT THE HARBOUR PATROL AND HAVE THEM SEND OUT A BOAT!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
ALABASTER! AMI'S GONE! I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE ROCK JUMPED OUT OF THE CABIN!
WHAT!?
WHERE'S AMI?
STOP RIGHT THERE!


PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
BUT I CAN STILL SEE YOU FROM YOUR BLEEDING LEG!
RUN AS MUCH AS YOU WANT,
HEH HEH. GOTCHA!

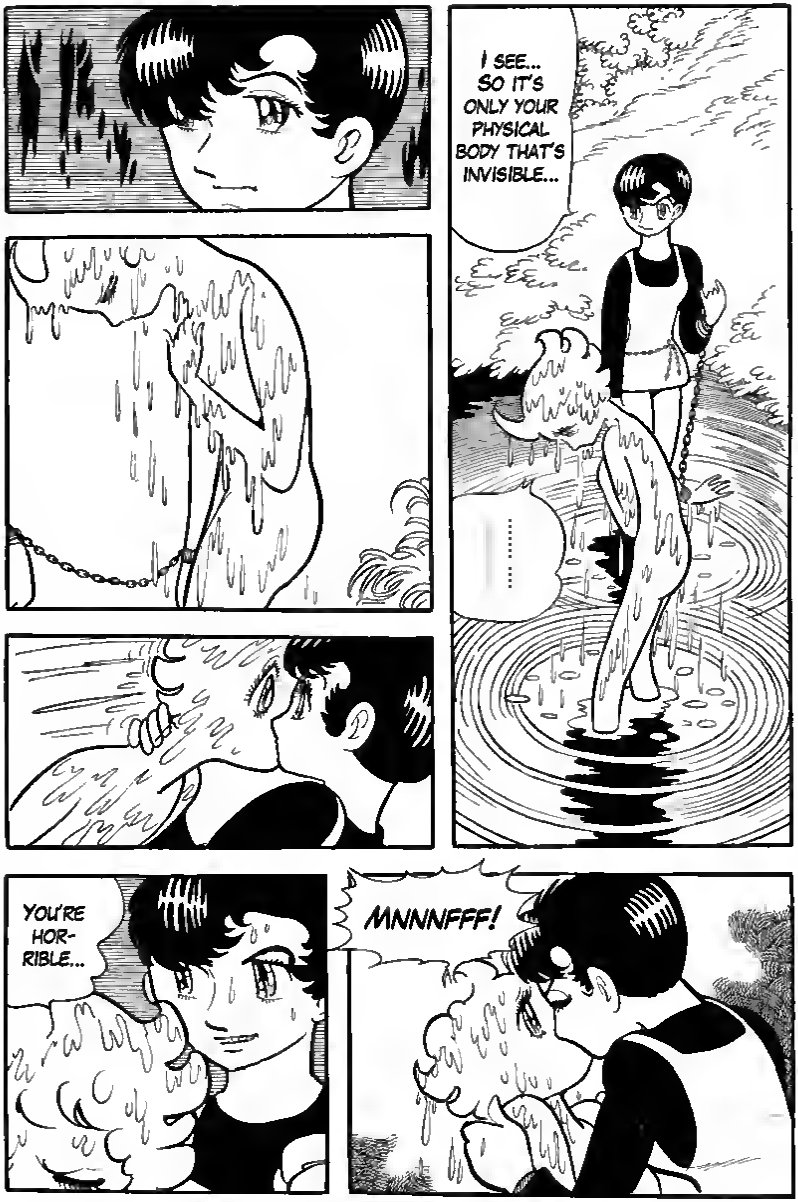
ドサ
P-PLEASE, NO MORE...
DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE A GIRL...
AN INVISIBLE GIRL, HUH.
PANT
PANT
A GIRL?
STAND UP.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING AN INVISIBLE HUMAN.
OUT-SIDE OF MOVIES,
THEN AGAIN, PERHAPS "SEEING" ISN'T THE RIGHT WORD TO USE SINCE YOU ARE INVISIBLE AND ALL.

STOP.

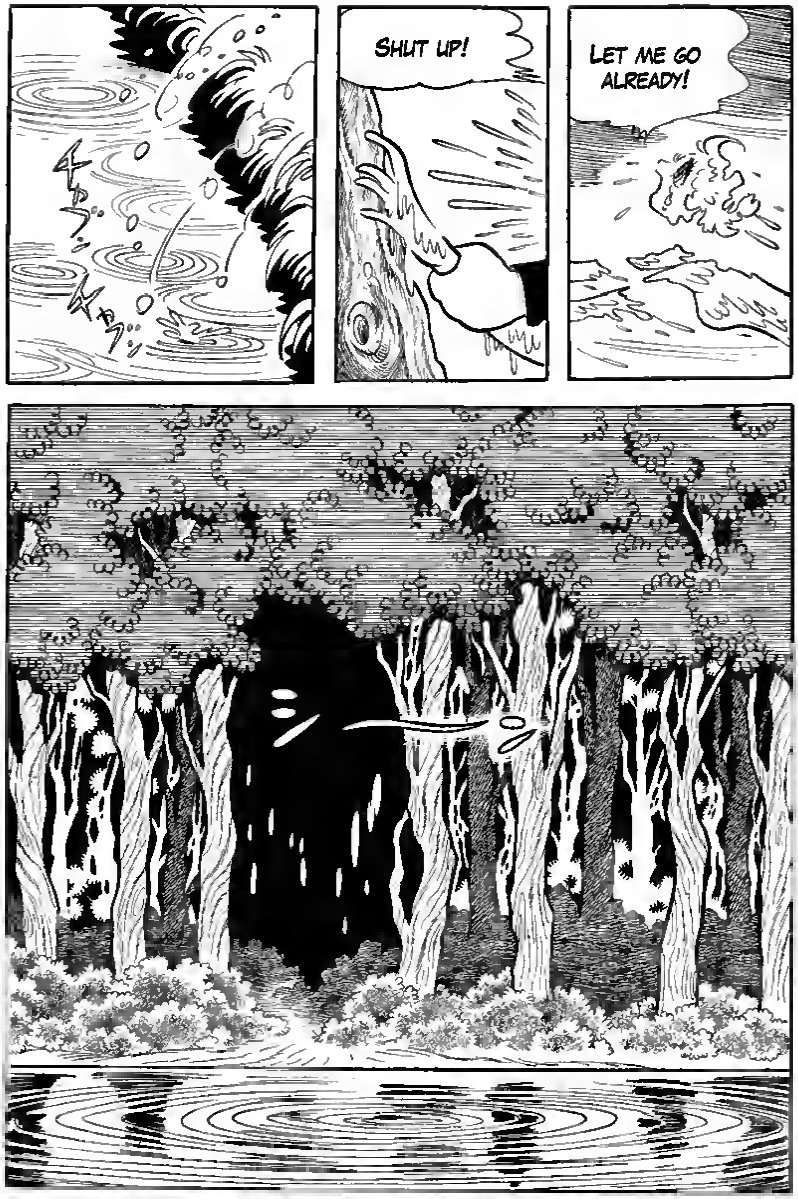
ARE YOU GOING TO HAND ME OVER TO THE POLICE?
YOU'RE MUCH TOO VALUABLE TO SIMPLY HAND OVER TO THOSE BUFFOONS.
I'LL TAKE MY TIME OBSERVING YOU MORE FIRST.


WHAT?
NOW JUMP INTO THIS POND.

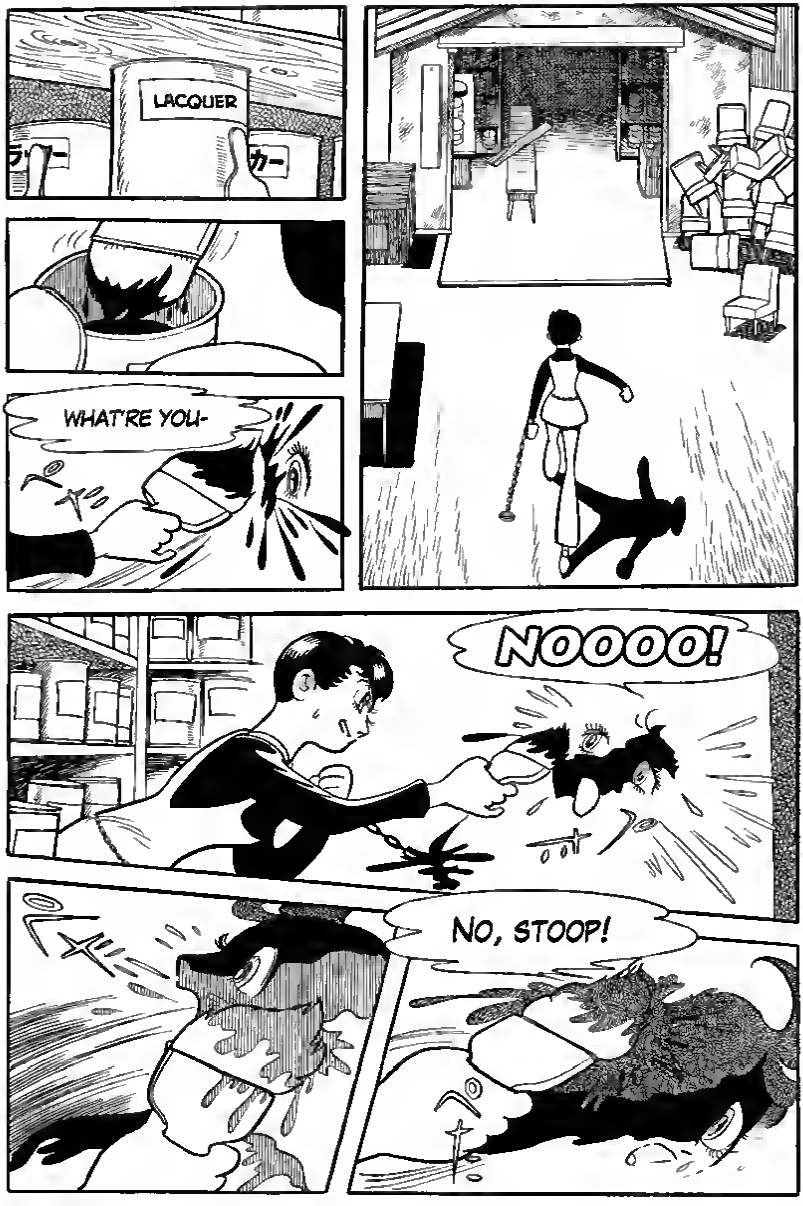
YOU DO WHAT I TELL YOU! I'M AN FBI AND YOU'RE JUST A CRIMINAL!
KOO
JUMP IN SO I CAN SEE YOUR BODY.
NOOO!
YOU'RE NAKED!?


I SEE... SO IT'S ONLY YOUR PHYSICAL BODY THAT'S INVISIBLE...
.....
YOU'RE HOR-RIBLE...
MNNNFFF!

HA, KISSING AN INVISIBLE GIRL'S PRETTY INTERESTING.
NOO!
LET ME GO!
AFTER ALL, I CAN'T HAVE MY FUN IF YOUR BODY DRIES OFF TOO QUICKLY NOW, CAN I?
COOL YOUR TEMPER, I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING ALL WORKED UP.
PLEASE STOP!
KYAAA!
FEISTY, AREN'CHA
STOP!

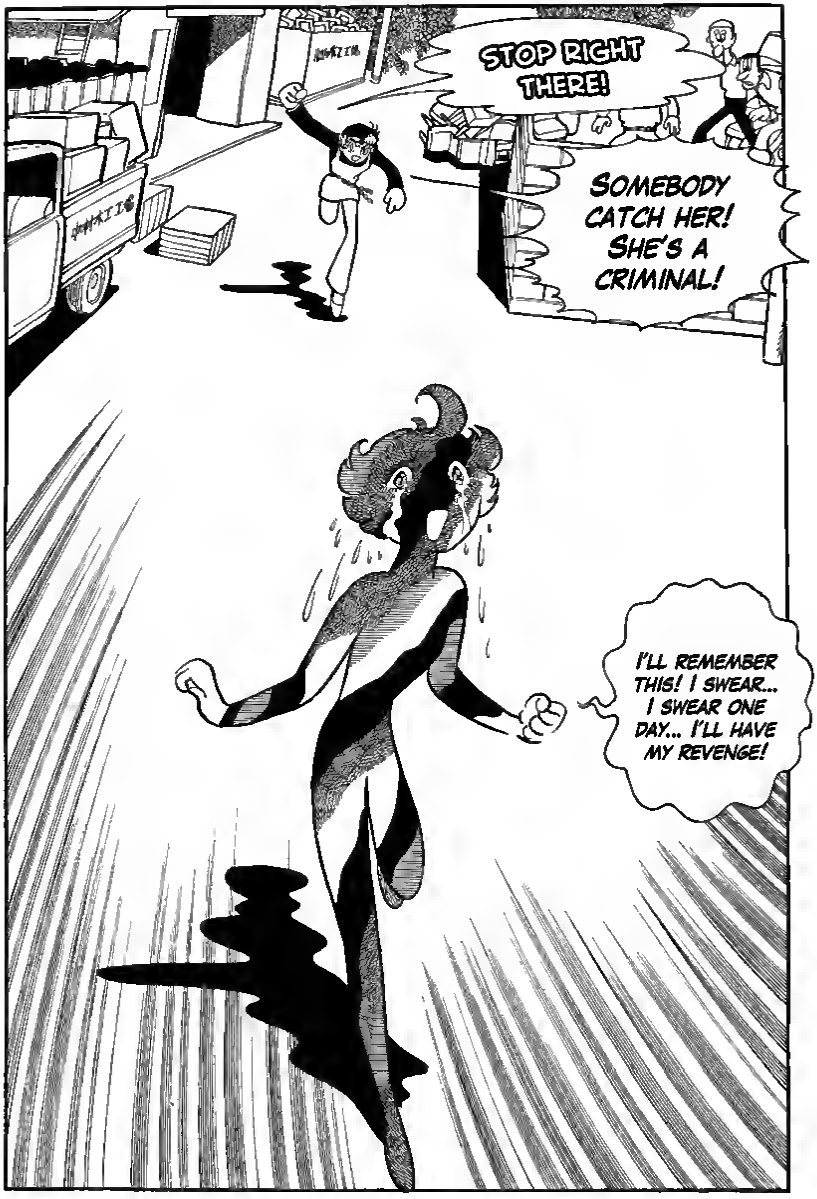

SHUT UP!
LET ME GO ALREADY!

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN OFFICER OF THE LAW...
SO WHAT SAY YOU TO GOING OUT WITH ME FOR SOME TIME?
ONCE I HAND YOU OVER TO THE JAPANESE POLICE, YOU WON'T EVER SEE ME AGAIN. BUT GOOD-BYES ARE SUCH TEARFUL THINGS..
OH PLEASE, YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE IT WAS DRAWN BY A 3RD-RATE ARTIST..
I'M BEA-UTIFUL, AREN'T I?
To;


LACQUER
WHAT'RE YOU-
NOOOO!
NO, STOOP!

PLEASE STOP PUTTING PAINT ON ME! LACQUER PAINT'S TOXIC! IT'LL KILL ME!

WELL, I NEEDED TO PUT SOMETHING ON YOUR BODY THAT'D BE HARD TO TAKE OFF.
AGHH!
YOU THINK YOU CAN RUN AWAY FROM ME AND THE POLICE WHILE LOOKING LIKE THAT!?


STOP RIGHT THERE!
SOMEBODY CATCH HER! SHE'S A CRIMINAL!
I'LL REMEMBER THIS! I SWEAR... I SWEAR ONE DAY... I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!

読者の皆さまへ

「手塚治虫漫画全集」の作品の中には、アフリカの黒人や、東南アジアの人々をはじめ多くの外国人の姿が出てきます。それらの絵の一部は、いかにも未開発国当時の姿だったり、過去の時代を誇張していて、現在の状況とは大きな違いがあります。最近、このような描き方は黒人や一部の外国人に対する人種差別であるという指摘がなされております。こうした絵に不快感を覚え、侮辱されていると感じる人がいる以上、私たちはその声に真剣に耳を傾けなければならないと思います。

しかしながら、人々の特徴を誇張してパロディー化するということは、漫画のユーモアの最も重要な手法のひとつです。手塚作品では特にそれが顕著で、多くの国の人がパロディー化の対象になっています。また作者は人間に限らず、動植物の世界から想像の世界のものたちまでもユーモアたっぷりにキャラクター化しています。それは作者の自画像でさえ例外ではなく、彼の鼻は実際よりも数倍大きく描かれています。また作者はつねに文明と非文明、先進国と発展途上国、権力者と弱者、金持ちと貧者、健常者と障害者など、すべての憎悪と対立は悪であるという信念を持ちつづけた人で、物語の底には強い「人間愛」が流れています。

私たちが今あえてこの「手塚治虫漫画全集」を刊行しつづけるのは、作者がすでに故人で作品の改訂が不可能であることと、第三者が故人の作品に手を加えることは、著作者人格権上の問題もさることながら、当該問題を考えてゆくうえでも決して適切な処置とは思えないこと、加えて私たちには日本の文化遺産と評価される作品を守ってゆく責務があると考えるからです。もとより私たちは地球上のあらゆる差別に反対し、差別が無くなるよう努めてまいります。それが出版に携わる者の責任であると考えます。読者の皆さまも、この手塚作品に接するのを契機に、さまざまな差別が存在している事実を認識し、この問題への理解を深めてくださいますようお願いいたします。

手塚プロダクション／講談社

あなたは、この〝手塚治虫漫画全集〟を読んで、どんな感想をお持ちになりましたか。

編集部では、この手塚先生の全集について、読者の方たちのご意見をお待ちしています。

手塚先生の作品で、読みたいもの、いちばん好きなもの等、ご希望がありましたら、「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてに、どしどしお知らせください。

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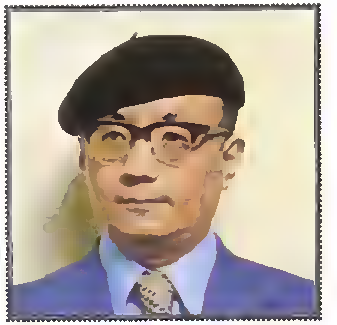

裏切った女へ復讐するためにあらわれた、透明な皮膚をもつ怪人アラバスター！　彼は、この世の見せかけの美しさを憎み、透明少女亜美や、不良少年ゲンとともに、社会に戦いをいどんだ！　話題のＳＦ大作、第１弾!!

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〈著者紹介〉 本名，治。1928年11月３日，大阪府豊中市生まれ。大阪大学医学専門部卒業。医学博士。1946年「マァチャンの日記帳」でデビュー。1947年「新宝島」が大ヒットする。以来，日本のストーリー漫画の確立に尽くす。また，アニメーションの世界でも，大きな業績を残す。代表作に「鉄腕アトム」をはじめ「リボンの騎士」「火の鳥」「ジャングル大帝」「ブラック・ジャック」「ブッダ」「アドルフに告ぐ」等がある。

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